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Wednesday, November 30, 2011
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BINGE DRINKING
ONTARIO TEENS MAY BE GOING OVERBOARD AT PARTIES {page 6}

UNDRESS FOR SUCCESS
NUDE SCENES LURE OSCARS
{page 29}

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Arena. Unveiling

▶ The centrepiece of Ryerson University's new $71.2-million athletic centre will be a full-size, 2,600-seat arena situated directly below the distinctive white dome of the former Maple Leaf Gardens, some 50 feet above the entrance off Carlton Street.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gardens turning over new leaf with Ryerson

Ryerson University yesterday hosted a tour of their new athletic facility, called the Peter Gilgan Athletic Centre, in the former Maple Leaf Gardens. The new centre, which is due to open in March, has an ice rink, gym and training facilities for their various teams. A flagship Loblaws store will be on the ground floor. **More coverage, page 3.**

Crosstown LRT may be TTC-free

TTC officials have signalled they're not interested in LRT built by the private sector

The biggest, most expensive public transit project in Toronto's recent history could be built and operated without any involvement by the TTC.

Metrolinx is considering a public-private partnership to design, finance, build and even potentially operate and maintain the provincially funded $8.2-billion Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown light rail line.

It's not clear what adding a private operator to the Toronto transit equation would mean to riders, but transit officials say a complex agreement between the TTC and an alternate provider would have to be worked out to ensure commuters could move easily between two systems. Fare payments, transfer points and protocols for service disruptions and public complaints would all need to be considered.

If Metrolinx decides on a private partnership, it would be the biggest public transit project in the province to be administered by Infrastructure Ontario, the government agency that handles alternative financing and procurements (AFPs).

With $8.2 billion at stake, Metrolinx has an obligation to investigate all options, said CEO Bruce McCuaig. The decision on how the LRT is built and operated will be based on whether "it creates value for money in the end for the owner and the taxpayer," he said.

McCuaig didn't know when a decision would be made. But the timing can't impede the project's 2020 completion schedule or its budget. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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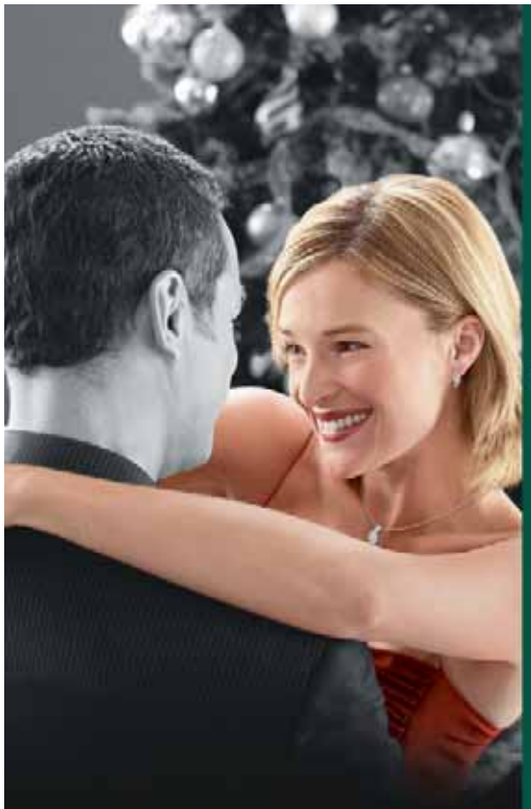

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Eaton Centre changes tradition

You could say the Eaton family brought Santa Claus to Toronto.

Since Dec. 2, 1905, when the world's most famous fat man with a white beard and red suit emerged from Union Station and walked with the Eaton family to Canada's fastest-growing department store at Yonge and Queen streets, Santa has been synonymous with the name Eaton. At least in ho-ho-Hogtown.

Eaton's closed in 1999 and the Eaton Centre, now a Cadillac Fairview property, retains the name of its former anchor but has no connection with the Eaton family.

And as for Santa, well, these days when you go into the Eaton Centre, you won't actually see him. Unless you go to the 24th floor where the new Santa Experience takes place. Parents can preregister their children for a free interactive one-hour morning session on weekends, in which Santa reads stories to children. At the end, parents can take their own photos of their children with Santa.

Or they can opt for cyber Santa — a 10-minute Skype visit with the jolly old elf between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. weekdays until Dec. 23. There's no cost and the Skype session can be booked through guest services (416-598-8560).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parade history

- The first one-man "Eaton Santa Claus Parade" evolved into an annual parade that became one of the world's largest and was sponsored by the store until 1981. It endures through the efforts and funds of 20 corporate sponsors.

Hockey returning to Gardens

New era begins for the venerated sports complex, this time as the home of the Ryerson Rams

Hockey will be back at the Gardens in the spring for the first time since 1999, when the National Hockey League's Maple Leafs moved to the Air Canada Centre after nearly seven decades at the old arena.

"This is a new chapter in a book now, and being part of this history is pretty cool," said Tie Domi, who played in the last game the Leafs hosted at the Gardens.

Though the ice has not yet been installed, the centrepiece of Ryerson University's new athletic complex was open for a preview yesterday.

The multi-use Maple Leaf Gardens will house a giant Loblaw's grocery store, Joe Fresh clothing outlet and LCBO, in addition to the Ryerson complex. The retail space is scheduled to open today.

"This building has a tremendous history and what it needs now is a tremendous future." SHELDON LEVY, RYERSON'S PRESIDENT

The revamp has been a drawn out, years-long process fraught with controversy and complications as Ryerson, Loblaws and Torontonians debated about how the space would be used.

Ryerson's new recreation complex will be called the Peter Gilgan Athletic Centre at the Gardens after the founder and CEO of Mattamy Homes, who gave the university $15 million. His donation is among the largest gifts ever made to Ryerson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Flowers are loaded into the new Loblaws store on the ground floor at Maple Leaf Gardens. The 70,000-square-foot, street-level Loblaws opens its doors today.

1 news

Only one in four Americans with the AIDS virus has the infection under control with medications, U.S. federal health officials say. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web

November is traditionally a strong month on the markets, says Allan Small, but this year a large sell-off has wiped out all the gains made in October. More at metronews.ca/investing

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Police identify homicide victim

CONTRIBUTED

▶Leanne Freeman.

A woman found dying on a street in the city's Port Lands area early yesterday has been identified as Leanne Freeman, 23, from Winnipeg.

The cause of death has been determined to be a gunshot wound to the body. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sentimental video of dead cyclist stolen

Earlier this month, cyclist Jenna Morrison was struck and killed by a truck while turning right from Sterling Road to Dundas Street West.

Now, the family has been rocked by the news that a video camera containing footage of the much-loved yoga instructor dancing with her son has been stolen from the car of a family friend.

The footage was to be shown at a Dec. 15 fundraiser to raise money to go into a trust fund for Morrison's son Lucas, 5.

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RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Toronto Fire Chief Bill Stewart talks to reporters about the response time of his department.

Crews too slow, fire chief says

Bill Stewart hopes new dispatch system, extra stations will improve response times

Toronto's fire chief acknowledged his department has work to do to stop wasting precious minutes getting crews out the door after a 911 call.

"This fire service does not meet the standard, we know that," Bill Stewart said. "It's our goal, it's where we want to be."

"Will we ever achieve it? Time will tell."

Stewart was responding to a Toronto Star story about a secret report that reveals the Toronto fire department trails the North American response standard by two minutes.

Toronto Fire Services take eight minutes or more to get to a fire call. The standard is six minutes or less — and every second is crucial. The longer a fire burns the harder it is to rescue residents and put out the blaze.

The report studied a year of fire calls and determined Toronto Fire's issue lay with the time it takes to process the call and for firefighters to get dressed and out the door.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shortage of halls

- **Battle.** Speaking to reporters after a nearly two-year-long freedom of information battle by the Toronto Star made the report public, Toronto's fire chief Bill Stewart instead stressed the problem was a shortage of fire halls.
- **City.** There are 82 fire halls in Toronto, only two more than when the city amalgamated, Stewart said.
- **Congestion.** An increasingly dense and congested city means it takes longer to get to calls. More fire halls will make it easier to reach certain pockets of the city that lack a nearby station, he added.

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Teen binge drinking a concern: Survey

Rate of driving high also up: Author Increasing evidence that cannabis can impair your ability to drive

Students in Ontario are smoking fewer cigarettes, but binge drinking and driving while high are growing health concerns, according to a new report by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

The survey found that while binge drinking among teens dropped a little in the last decade, there are still thousands of high school students downing five or more drinks on a single occasion at least once a month.

"There's a culture among young people of binge drinking that's potentially dangerous, and the challenge is how do you break into that," Dr. Robert Mann, the report's main author, said in an interview yesterday.

Gender benders

- Girls were as likely to engage in dangerous drinking behaviour as boys, and while there's been a decline in drug use among males, that didn't seem to hold true for females.

His research showed that alcohol was the substance used by the largest number of students, with 55 per cent saying they'd had a drink in the past year, and one in 10 students reporting binge drinking at times of psychological distress.

The report also found that 13 per cent of students reported symptoms of a drug-use problem, while one in six students said they were drunk or high at school a least once in the past year.

Students in Toronto were below the provincial average in the use of alcohol, pot, cocaine and binge drinking, while those in the north were above it.

Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews called the drinking numbers concerning, and said it was a sign that more work needs to be done around public education and supports.

"We're not planning anything new right now but I think the good news on the smoking side tells us that we can move those numbers," said Matthews.

The survey included 9,288 students across the province in Grades 7 to 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A still from director Jay Prychidny's video about a prom after-party, based on an incident he witnessed and was haunted by. A new report says thousands of high school students are downing five or more drinks on a single occasion at least once a month.

Trial date set for former Maple Leaf's wife

Vincent Damphousse's estranged wife is slated to stand trial next year for allegedly assaulting the retired NHL star and stealing from him.

Lawyers agreed yesterday that Allana Henderson's one-day trial should be held next June 8.

The date-setting came as both sides continued discussions aimed at having the criminal charges dropped.

Henderson was not in court yesterday. She is facing two charges — one count of theft of a briefcase and one of assault with a weapon against Damphousse last March 29.

Damphousse faces six counts of assault against Henderson, which allegedly occurred between 2008 and early 2011. His case returns to court today.

Both Damphousse and Henderson have pleaded not guilty to all charges and have kept quiet about the case to protect their children.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Allana Henderson, estranged wife of former Toronto Maple Leaf Vincent Damphousse, leaves court in Montreal, April 20.

Damphousse's lawyer has previously suggested the charges against his client stem from divorce proceedings.

The Crown and Henderson's lawyer said yesterday that discussions aimed at ending the legal process are ongoing.

Crown prosecutor Carolyne Paquin said it is normal to set the date for a trial even as both sides continue to talk. If negotiations between the parties fail, both cases will likely go to trial. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Playing career

- Damphousse was drafted sixth overall by Toronto in 1986 and played with Edmonton, Montreal and San Jose during an 18-year NHL career that ended following the 2003-2004 season.
- He won a Stanley Cup in 1993 with the Habs and served as the team's captain from 1996 to 1999.

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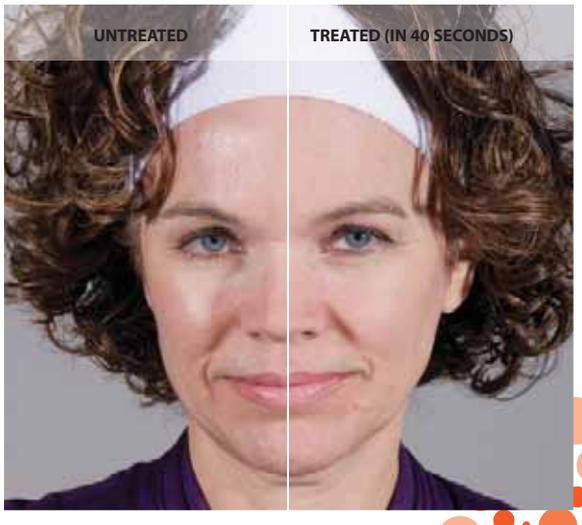

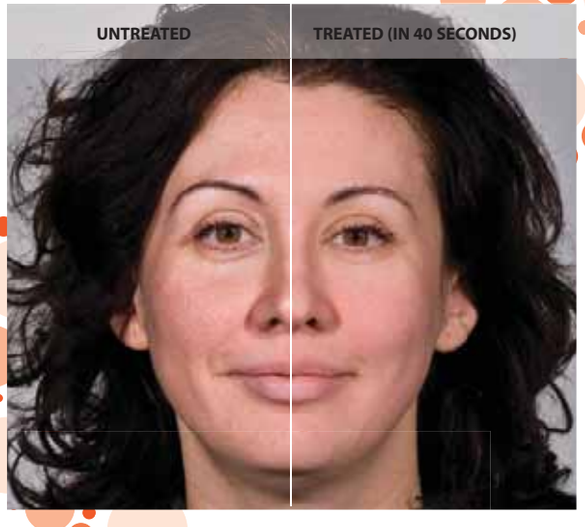

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ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Stella Wheesk holds her one-month-old baby, Rain Wesley, as Harold Wesley looks on in their trailer home in Attawapiskat, Ont., yesterday. A solution to some of the most immediate problems in Attawapiskat seems to be taking shape.

Hidden horrors

Overcrowding, cold now a way of life on troubled reserve Government 'embarrassed as hell': Resident

At first glance, Attawapiskat is glistening, white and serene, however the inside of the old construction trailer where dozens of people now live is anything but.

This native reserve just west of James Bay is in the midst of a severe housing crisis that is straining people's composure and producing widespread, but so-far muted, anger.

"There's a lot of drama here, a lot of kids," said Rollande Kataquapit, who lives in a cramped apartment in the old trailer with her 21-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter.

Her daughter Jade Kataquapit missed school again yesterday.

She can't sleep at night.

"Too much noise in the hallway overnight," she said.

Jade wants to go to school, but sees little point if she can't concentrate.

Her bed sits in a corner, next to her brother's bed. Her mother stretches out on the floor. Occasionally, another child sleeps on the sofa.

The trailer resembles a vastly overcrowded university residence. It's packed with adults, young children and infants. Garbage litters the floor of the common laundry room. Everyone shares four bathrooms.

People are starting to wear on each other's nerves.

Stella Wheesk lives in the trailer with her one-month-old baby, Rain. She and some other members of her family moved in a year ago because their old house was filled with cockroaches and tainted by mould.

She's not happy with the trailer because the cold creeps in at night and she fears for her baby.

Down the road stands a mix of sturdy houses, some shacks and a teepee or two, with tarps hung across the doorway to keep out the cold.

The natives' plight has gradually attracted attention.

"The good thing is, everybody knows about it. The government is embarrassed as hell," one resident said. "We're beginning to see some progress."

The Assembly of First Nations estimates that 80,000 additional homes are needed on reserves across the country. The advocacy organization says almost half of the existing housing stock is substandard, and much of it should be condemned.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbour sues cops, sex killer Williams

A neighbour of convicted sex killer Russell Williams is suing him, the police and one of the victims after he was wrongfully implicated in the crimes.

Larry Jones has launched a nearly $1.6-million lawsuit for the emotional and mental stress he suffered when he was suspected of committing several break-ins and sexual assaults in the Tweed, Ont., area.

Court documents show Williams himself is being sued for failing to notify the police that he was the real attacker, responsible for "the atrocious attacks on multiple females" as well as break-ins in the area north of Belleville that Jones was accused of.

As a result, the suit alleges, Jones was subjected to four months of intense police investigation, beginning with what he described as a humiliating interrogation.

The court documents say Jones came home on Oct. 29, 2009, to find 10 to 12 police cars at his home and about 25 police searching its contents. The documents say he was taken in for questioning.

The lawsuit also alleges a neighbour who was a victim of Williams had wrongfully identified Jones's voice as that of her assailant.

Laurie Massicotte, was attacked in her home by Williams on or about Sept. 30, 2009.

The documents also claim a disparity between Massicotte's description of her attacker and Jones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

▶ Russell Williams is shown in this court-released image from his interrogation by police captured on video.

Background

- Russell Williams, a former base commander of Canadian Forces Base Trenton, is serving two life sentences after pleading guilty to 88 charges last year, including the murders of Cpl. Marie-France Comeau and Jessica Lloyd.

Threat posted on Facebook

Ottawa police say a 22-year-old man is facing charges after allegedly threatening Ottawa's transit system on Facebook.

Police say James Perry of Ottawa was arrested late last week and charged with one count of uttering threats of death or bodily harm.

Police say any online threats will be taken seriously.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Single soldier spat shelved

A discrimination case involving the family of a single soldier killed five years ago in Afghanistan was thrown out when Veterans Affairs abruptly declared Cpl. Matthew Dinning actually had a common-law spouse and child.

The revelation shocked his parents and brother, who were challenging the government's $250,000 lump-sum death benefit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds won't meddle with Kyoto

The Canadian government promises not to play an obstructionist role in the current round of climate talks in South Africa.

Environment Minister Peter Kent said yesterday that Canada won't stand in the way of other countries that want to continue with the Kyoto Protocol.

Kent won't deny reports that Canada plans to withdraw from the 1997 deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SURVEY SAYS

Men think about sex twice as often as women

Men think almost as much about food as sex, but they don't think about sex as often as previously believed, a new study reveals.

"Young people don't think about sex as often as the general popular image suggests. 'The once every seven seconds' is very far off from reality, and the sex differences are not as large as we believe," says Terri Fisher, professor of psychology at Ohio State University and lead author of the study.

It turns out men think about sex 19 times a day, and sleep 18 times a day. That is nearly twice as often as women think about sex, but men also think more about food and sleep.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Anthrax widow wins settlement

The U.S. government has agreed to pay $2.5 million to the widow and family of a Florida photo editor killed in the 2001 anthrax attacks. The U.S. is not admitting fault says a document. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mag charged for insulting Venus de Milo

A German magazine has gone on trial in Athens over a satirical cover that raised hackles with a doctored picture of ancient Greek goddess Venus raising her middle finger to Europeans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands on the case

FACEBOOK

▶ A screen grab of the Michelle Parker Missing Person Facebook page. The 33-year-old mother of three vanished almost a week ago after appearing on a taped episode of The People's Court.

Ex-fiancé in the spotlight after People's Court woman goes missing

More than 10,000 people are following a missing person's Facebook page created for a Florida woman who vanished after a televised dispute with her ex-fiancé over a $5,000 engagement ring.

The Michelle Parker Missing Person page, created Nov. 18, collects information about her disappearance, refutes rumours and urges followers to distribute the police poster about the Orlando mother of three.

Parker, 32, was last seen Nov. 17 driving to drop off their three-year-old twins with ex-fiancé Dale Smith, the day an episode of The People's Court aired about their dispute over her engagement ring.

Her black Hummer with the words "Glow Mobil Airbrush Tanning" on its side windows was found the next day, according to the Facebook page.

Smith is the only suspect in the disappearance, Orlando Chief Paul Rooney said at a news conference Monday evening.

Smith has refused to take a lie-detector test, he said.

On the previously taped The People's Court episode, Parker and Smith had argued over the engagement ring that got lost after she threw it at him during an argument, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

Smith had sued Parker in civil court in May, about the time the episode was taped, the newspaper said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Egypt's election gives military reason to crow

Egypt's military rulers were quick to take credit yesterday for a strong turnout in the first elections since Hosni Mubarak's ouster, a vote that appeared to be the country's freest and fairest in living memory.

The military did not field candidates in the parliamentary vote. But winning bragging rights for a smooth, successful and virtually fraud-free election would significantly boost the ruling generals in their bitter struggle with youthful protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square calling for them to transfer power immediately to a civilian authority.

"When we plan, we execute and, at the end, we succeed," Maj. Gen. Ismail Etman, a member of the ruling military council, said in a television interview. He compared the elections to one of the Egyptian military's proudest moments — when they battled Israeli forces across the Suez Canal in 1973. "The armed forces pulled off this election like they pulled off the crossing in 1973," he said.

Even before voting began, protesters were accusing the military of trying to cling to power and safeguard its interests under any future government. Now, they warn the ruling council will try to use the success of the election to cement its hold on power. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAHMUD HAMS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Egyptian soldiers collect sealed ballot boxes from polling stations at the end of the voting day in Cairo yesterday.

Tahrir empty

▶ Already, the ruling council's perceived success seems to have taken the wind out of Tahrir protests, at least temporarily. The square that was the centre of the anti-Mubarak uprising had as many vendors as protesters yesterday. Several small groups of older men intensely debating politics was the only sign of political activity.

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MARIO ANZUONI,/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dr. Conrad Murray closes his eyes after he was sentenced for his involuntary manslaughter conviction in the death of singer Michael Jackson in Superior Court, Los Angeles yesterday.

Jackson's doctor gets four-year jail term

Murray will likely serve less than two years in county jail Jackson family is pleased with sentence

A judge's stern voice broke the silence of a Los Angeles courtroom: "Money for madness medicine," he said before sentencing Dr. Conrad Murray to the maximum four years behind bars for Michael Jackson's death.

Judge Michael Pastor denounced Murray as a greedy, remorseless physician whose gross negligence killed the King of Pop.

Pastor said Murray sold out his profession for a promised fee of $150,000 a month and accused Murray of committing a "horrific violation of trust" when he agreed to give Jackson a powerful anesthetic every night as an unorthodox cure for insomnia.

Jackson's family said in a statement read in court that they were not seeking revenge but a stiff sentence for Murray that served as a warning to opportunistic doctors.

"We're going to be a family. We're going to move forward," brother Jermaine Jackson said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doctor in debt

- Prosecutors cited Murray's statements to advocate that he receive the maximum term. They also want him to pay restitution to the singer's three children — Prince, Paris and Blanket.
- It's unlikely that Murray can pay any sizable sum, as he was deeply in debt when he agreed to serve as Jackson's personal physician for $150,000 a month, and the singer died before Murray received any payment.

Kidnapper sues his hostages

Can there be no trust between a kidnapper and his hostages?

A man who held a Kansas couple hostage in their home while fleeing from authorities is suing them, claiming that they broke an oral contract made when he promised them money in exchange for hiding him from police. The couple has asked a judge to dismiss the suit.

Jesse Dimmick, of suburban Denver, is serving an 11-year sentence after bursting into Jared and Lindsay Rowley's Topeka-area home in September 2009.

He was wanted for questioning in the beating death of a Colorado man and a chase had begun.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that Dimmick filed a breach of contract suit in Shawnee County District Court, in response to a suit the Rowleys filed in September seeking $75,000 from him for intruding in their home and causing emotional stress.

Dimmick contends that he told the couple he was being chased by someone, most likely the police, who wanted to kill him.

Neighbours have said that the couple fed Dimmick snacks and watched movies with him until he fell asleep and they were able to escape their home unharmed.

Robert E. Keeshan, an attorney for the Rowleys, filed a motion denying that there was a contract, but said if there was it would not have been binding regardless.

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Mobs storm diplomatic compounds

Iranian demonstrators call for closure of British Embassy
Rally had to get official sanction

Hard-line Iranian protesters stormed British diplomatic compounds yesterday, hauling down the Union Jack, torching a vehicle and pelting buildings with gasoline bombs in what began as an apparent state-approved show of anger over the latest Western sanctions to punish Tehran for defiance over its nuclear program.

The hours-long assault on the British Embassy and a residential complex for staff — in chaotic scenes reminiscent of the seizing of the U.S. Embassy in 1979 — could push already frayed diplomatic ties toward the breaking point.

Iran's parliament approved a bill Sunday to downgrade relations with Britain, one of America's closest allies with diplomatic envoys in the Islamic Republic.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said all embassy staff had been accounted for and praised Britain's ambassador to Iran for handling a "dangerous situation with calm and professionalism."

The demonstration was organized by pro-government groups at universities and Islamic seminaries. However, such anti-Western rallies often draw ultraconservative factions such as the basiji, a paramilitary group run by the powerful Revolutionary Guard that is directly controlled by Iran's ruling theocracy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British reaction

- U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron says Iran's failure to defend the British embassy from an attack in Tehran was a disgrace.
- Cameron called the storming of the embassy in Tehran yesterday "outrageous and indefensible."
- Cameron said the Iranian government will face "serious consequences" for "its unacceptable failure" to protect diplomats in line with international law.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A man holds a poster featuring American actors John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson in a scene from the film Pulp Fiction following a break-in at the British Embassy during an anti-British demonstration yesterday in the Iranian capital Tehran.

Obama urges Iran to condemn, prosecute

U.S. President Barack Obama strongly urged the Iranian government to hold those responsible to account for storming the British Embassy in Tehran.

"For rioters to essentially be able to overrun the embassy and set it on fire is an indication that the Iranian government is not taking its international obligations seriously," the president said.

Obama made his remarks at the beginning of a meeting yesterday with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

"That kind of behaviour is unacceptable," Obama said, adding that the Iranian government has a responsibility to protect diplomatic outposts.

Hard-line Iranian students stormed the embassy in Tehran yesterday, bringing down the Union Jack flag, burning an embassy vehicle and throwing documents from windows in scenes reminiscent of the 1979 attack on the U.S. embassy there.

In a statement earlier, the White House urged Iran to condemn the incident, prosecute the offenders and ensure that no other incidents occur at either the British Embassy or any other mission in Iran.

The White House says the State Department is in close contact with the British government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FARSNEWS/GETTY IMAGE

▶ A protester holds up a baton as riot police hold back demonstrators trying to storm the British Embassy in Tehran, Iran yesterday.

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Daughter calls for revolt

Exiled in Algeria, Aisha Gadhafi urges Libyans to overthrow new rulers

JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Aisha Gadhafi, daughter of ousted Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, is surrounded by supporters at the Bab Al Azizia compound in Tripoli in March.

Moammar Gadhafi's daughter urged Libyans yesterday to overthrow their new rulers, possibly violating the terms of her exile in Algeria.

In an audio message broadcast on Syria's al-Rai television station, Aisha Gadhafi called for a revolt against the men who overthrew her father, the government she said "arrived with the planes of NATO."

"My father has not left, he is always among us," she said, following the traditional 40-day mourning period after his death. "Don't forget the orders of your father urging you to continue fighting, even if you no longer hear his voice."

Gadhafi, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was captured with his son Muatassim on Oct. 20 and killed by rebels.

As the Libyan capital of Tripoli fell to rebel forces, Aisha, her mother and two of her brothers took refuge in neighbouring Algeria.

Aisha's appeal puts her in direct conflict with a promise she and her family members made not to make public statements at the risk of losing their status as humanitarian refugees.

After similar statements in September, Algerian officials warned that she could be expelled.

The Algerian regime had close ties with Gadhafi but has since worked to repair strained relations with Libya's new leaders.

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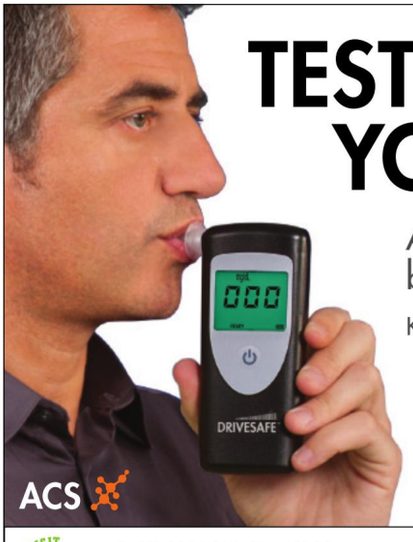

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Greece thrown lifeline as Italy sinks in red ink

If Italy defaults on its €1.9-trillion debt, the fallout could break up the eurozone currency, observers say

VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ European Commissioner for the Economy Olli Rehn, from left, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker and Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti greet each other yesterday in Brussels.

With Italy sinking rapidly into financial chaos, the eurozone's 17 finance ministers scrambled yesterday to find enough money for their rescue fund and give the markets some reassurance their embattled currency won't break up.

Italy's borrowing rates shot up above seven per cent, a shocking increase over rates just last month. Markets rose for the second day on hopes that the enormous pressures on the ministers would produce some results.

Early in their meeting in Brussels, the finance ministers averted disaster in Greece, approving the next instalment of the country's bailout loan — €8 billion. The new cash came after the EU demanded, and received, letters from senior Greek leaders pledging support for tough new austerity measures.

The finance ministers were discussing ideas that until recently would have been taboo: Countries ceding more budgetary sovereignty to EU headquarters in Brussels.

Strengthening financial governance is being touted as one way the eurozone can escape its debt crisis

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CORNELIUS POPPE/SCANPIX NORWAY/AP PHOTO

▶ Norwegian prosecutors Svein Holden and Inga Bejer Engh comment on the psychiatric evaluation of confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik at a news conference in Oslo.

Norway killer insane, unfit for trial: Report

Anders Breivik killed 77 people in anti-Muslim attacks

Confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik belongs in psychiatric care instead of prison, prosecutors in Norway said yesterday after a mental evaluation declared him legally insane during a bomb-and-shooting rampage that killed 77 people.

The court-ordered assessment found that the self-styled anti-Muslim militant was psychotic during the July 22 attacks, which would make him mentally unfit to be convicted and imprisoned for the country's worst peacetime massacre.

The report, written by two psychiatrists who spent a total of 36 hours talking to Breivik, will be reviewed by a forensic panel before the Oslo district court makes a ruling on his mental state.

Their conclusions surprised many outside experts and contrasted with earlier comments by the head of the panel, who told AP in late July that it was unlikely that Breivik would be declared insane because the attacks were so carefully planned and executed.

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American Airlines in trouble

Bankruptcy means flights may be cut, job losses on the horizon ◗ AMR stockholders will be wiped out

The parent company of American Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection yesterday, seeking relief from crushing debt caused by high fuel prices and expensive labour contracts that its competitors shed years ago.

The company also replaced its CEO. American said its frequent-flier program would be unaffected.

AMR Corp., which owns American, was the only major U.S. airline company that did not file for bankruptcy protection after the Sept. 11 attacks, which caused a deep slump in the industry.

In announcing the bankruptcy filing, AMR said CEO Gerard Arpey, a veteran of the company for almost three decades, had stepped down and was replaced by Thomas W. Horton, the company president.

In a filing with federal bankruptcy court in New York, AMR said it had $29.6 billion in debt and $24.7 billion in assets.

The company will delay the spinoff of its regional airline, American Eagle.

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SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An employee works at an American Airlines counter at LaGuardia Airport in New York yesterday.

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Facebook going public?

$10 billion expected from IPO Amount raised would value company at $100 billion — four times market capitalization of Google's 2004 IPO

Facebook might finally be laying down the groundwork for a highly anticipated initial public offering, long expected to take place after April 2012.

The Wall Street Journal said the world's largest online social network is looking into raising as much as $10 billion US in its IPO.

Federal rules require companies with at least $10 million in assets and more than 500 shareholders to disclose its quarterly financial results and other details. The reporting requirement kicks in 120 days after the fiscal year in which a company exceeds the shareholder threshold for the first time.

Facebook's fiscal year ends Dec. 31, so it would have until late April 2012 to comply with this requirement, having hit the threshold this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reluctant

- Founded in a Harvard dorm room in February 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook has tried to hold off on an IPO to focus on building its product rather than pleasing investors. But the reporting rules, along with early employees and investors eager to cash in on their stock, are putting it in a bind.

DARREN MCCOLLESTER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Just how rich will founder Mark Zuckerberg be when Facebook goes public?

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Cyber Monday sales up 33%

Numbers point to Americans' growing comfort with using their computers, tablets and smartphones to shop

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Cyber Monday sales on a computer screen.

U.S. shoppers seem to be just as enthusiastic about shopping on their computers and smartphones on Cyber Monday as they were about finding deals over the weekend.

A new report says a record number of shoppers made purchases online on the Monday after the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday weekend, pushing sales up 33 per cent.

The report from IBM Benchmark says the average order rose 2.6 per cent to $193.24 on the day when retailers amp up online promotions. The data says 80 per cent of retailers offered online deals.

It says traffic peaked at 2:05 p.m. Eastern. About 6.6 per cent used a mobile device to shop, up from 2.3 per cent in 2010.

A clearer picture of how holiday sales are shaping up will come tomorrow, when major retailers report November sales.

Over the past few years, big chains like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. have been offering more and better incentives like hourly deals and free shipping, to capitalize on that trend.

On Monday, Amazon.com offered its bigger, more expensive Kindle DX for $259, or $120 off the regular price. Walmart offered an LG 47-inch LED TV for $879, or $320 off regular price. The Express clothing chain gave 30 per cent off and free shipping on all online orders. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Steve Jobs with a 36-year old photo of himself, right, and co-founder Steve Wozniak in this file photo.

Bit of Apple history on sale

Sotheby's expects founding contract to fetch up to $150,000 on Dec. 13

Apple fans have a chance to snap up the company's founding documents.

Auction house Sotheby's is accepting bids on Ron Wayne's copy of the founding contract for Apple Computers, signed by him, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

Also included with the April 1, 1976, contract is Wayne's withdrawal from the enterprise 11 days later, leaving Jobs and Wozniak as the sole owners.

Wayne typed out the two and a half letter-size pages himself in his apartment, while Jobs and Steve Wozniak waited.

Eleven days later, Wayne withdrew from the partnership. Jobs and Wozniak agreed to pay him $800. He received an additional $1,500 once Apple secured startup funding. Sotheby's estimates Wayne's share would have been worth $2 billion today.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investment down in auto industry

A sharp drop in investment in Canadian carmakers this year will likely put the brakes on future output from the industry, according to a report by Scotia Economics.

The report says only $1.2 billion was spent in the industry in 2011, the lowest since mid-1980s and well below the $3.1 billion spent every year for the past decade.

Canada has held on to a 16 per cent market share in the North American auto industry so far, but that is a legacy from past investments, said senior economist Carlos Gomes.

The drop in spending on Canadian car plants comes despite a big rebound in the industry's performance this year, as it continues to recover from the global economic downturn and supply disruptions.

43 On a per-vehicle basis, auto-industry investment in Canada this year will plunge 43 per cent below the United States, Gomes said. Over the past decade, investment in the Canadian auto industry was 3 per cent higher than either in the United States or Mexico.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ITSUO INOUYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Prius hybrid plug-in.

Plug-in Prius now on order

Toyota began taking orders yesterday for the plug-in version of its Prius hybrid at a starting price of $41,000 US.

The Prius PHV is set for delivery in Japan in January. It starts at $32,000 in the U.S. and €37,000 in Europe, according to Toyota. Orders are already being taken online in the U.S.

The car has a cruise range per charge of 26.4 kilometres. Its mileage is estimated at 61 kilometres per litre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

German firm OK's $3.25B for potash op

SASKATCHEWAN. A German fertilizer company has approved $3.25 billion in spending for a new potash mining operation in Saskatchewan. The K+S group said it expects to have more than 1,000 people working on construction at peak periods and employ 300 when it hits full production.

Production from the proposed Legacy mine, about 50 kilometres north of Moose Jaw, is expected to begin in 2015 and ramp up over the next few years. K+S acquired the project when it bought Vancouver-based Potash One earlier this year.

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LOW CONSUMER CONFIDENCE EASY TO SWALLOW WITH BACON JAM

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Think you're hip to the hottest consumer trends?

Well, unless you're all over spreadable bacon, My Little Pony, Honey Badger and Pickle Juice, you are nowhere, my friend.

Time to go to school, fool.

Ad Age, the bible of Madison Avenue, released its annual list of 25 hottest brands Monday, and along with obvious choices such as the Chevy Cruze and the HTC smartphone, apparently America can't get enough of Street Skillet Bacon Spread and My Little Pony.

Seattle's Street Skillet's revenue is $3 million so far this year, mainly on the strength of the sale of bacon jam. It's one of Rachael Ray's fall favourite foods.

"Admit it: never in a million years would you consider bacon jam a million-dollar idea. That's why John Henderson is a successful entrepreneur and you aren't. No jam."

Admit it: Never in a million years would you consider bacon jam a million-dollar idea. That's why John Henderson is a successful entrepreneur and you aren't. No jam.

I bet you also let Pickle Juice slip through your fingers, too. Not so for Brandon Brooks, who had the vision and foresight to believe that people will buy anything as long as it's sold as an electrolyte replacement. Brooks is planning to blend Pickle Juice with pomegranate to make it taste better, which only goes to prove that a spoonful of sugar helps the Pickle Juice go down.

The list includes a bunch of nostalgia items, like Goldfish, those tasteless little crackers that are hot again, even though they're still tasteless. But after bacon jam and Pickle Juice, that's probably a good thing.

Then there's the inexplicable rebirth of My Little Pony, the foremost mania of my daughter when she was a little girl, some 25 years ago. I could never figure out why she would brush Her Little Pony for hours, yet I could never get her to brush the dog. I assume My Little Pony smelled better.

What's really weird is that the latest craze is being driven by an audience of adolescent and adult males called "bronies." They have their own podcast called Bronyville and their own New York convention called BroNYCon. The My Little Pony website has 71 million hits.

As weird as all of the above are, topping the list is the Honey Badger, which started as a bit player in a National Geographic special and has morphed into the Tasmanian Devil of the 21st century. He's so bad, he eats venom-spitting cobras alive and braves thousands of bee stings to eat their larvae. He's now the spokesvermin for Wonderful Pistachios, which he cracks by whacking them with a snake.

Don't believe me. Check him out on YouTube, where he has 23 million hits, but he don't care.

He's just bad.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

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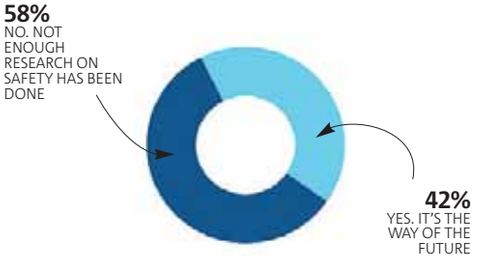
Should schools become Wi-Fi hotspots?



Local tweets

- **@DarylVocat:** If you liked Movember, you'll love Decembeard!! Spread the word! #decembeard
- **@MoSistasCA:** One more day of the month of Movember. (tear.) But don't forget to keep that mo-a-growin' if your local gala party is on FRIDAY. (yay!!)
- **@ivortossell:** Like a vaccine exposes the body to a bit of pathogen, Movember immunizes us against the chance that moustaches will ever really come back.
- **@TommyBielecki:** is tom sellack ashamed of what is going on with movember?
- **@bitts60:** Definitely gonna keep my stash for a bit after Movember ends.
- **@JimPayer:** Movember is almost at an end. Thank u to all who supported this great cause through me or anyone.
- **@terminalave:** some of these movember mustaches are just embarrassing. you guys have had a month to grow those piddly little things!
- **@arthurnn89:** @Deciuz dont forget the camera for tomorrow's #movember picture!

DYRK DANIELS/SOLENT NEWS/REX FEATURES

Daily Zoom

They call it 'Kitten Love'

Sharing a tender tiger moment

USA. "The little girl was so excited that she started clapping," says photographer Dyrk Daniels, who captured this moment at the Cougar Mountain Zoo in Issaquah, Wash. Golden Bengal tiger Taj walked to the glass, put his right paw up against it where the girl's hand was and bowed his head. MWN

"During my 27 years of working with tigers, I have never seen anything like it before."
RON TILSON, INTERNATIONAL TIGER EXPERT, MINNESOTA ZOO

Instead of 'Ahh!' it was 'Aww!'

RECOLLECTION. Daniels, 47, describes this chance occurrence at the zoo, saying he didn't expect such tenderness from the predatory kitty. "I noticed that Taj had taken an interest in the girl and was heading towards her. I thought for certain that the little girl would need therapy after the encounter." MWN

In the cat's eyes, child is a 'snack'

INSTINCT. This meeting between baby and 168 kg cat may seem cute, but typical human-tiger get-togethers are no fun, specialist Ron Tilson says. "Seeing a young child elicits a tiger's predatory instinct. It begins to follow the child closely, hoping to get a 'snack.' When it gets a chance, it will take it!" MWN

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‘They want to see naked bodies’

Helen Mirren got it right when she said ‘flesh sells’ Here’s to the many actors who have gone without a stitch — all in the name of art, of course

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

A website called Mr. Skin notes that Helen Mirren is the only celebrity to appear nude on screen in five different decades.

The Oscar winner became the first British actress to appear in the buff in a mainstream film in 1969, when she was just 24 years old.

On her revealing scene in Age of Consent she said, “Flesh sells. People don’t want to see pictures of churches. They want to see naked bodies.”

Since then Mirren has doffed her clothes several more times, and become one of the most acclaimed actresses of her age.

Appearing nude doesn’t appear to have hurt her career with the public or the Academy, which is probably makes Michael Fassbender, the very naked star of this weekend’s Oscar contender Shame, very happy.

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Michael Fassbender plays a sex addict in Shame. And yes, we get to see his very naked body.

In a performance that bares not only his body but his soul as well, Fassbender might become the most unclothed star to ever be nominated for Best Actor.

But he wouldn’t be the first star to go naked as a jaybird for their craft and take home Oscar gold.

Kate Winslet says there was so much nudity in The Reader, which earned her an Oscar, because the story required it. But, she added in the same interview, she thinks people might be tired of looking at her body.

The first nude film scenes happened almost 100 years before Fassbender drop trou.

In 1915’s Inspiration an actress named Audrey Munson undressed and for the next 20 years stars regularly exposed their hidden talents.

Then came the Hays Code, which banned nudity from the major studios well into the 1960s.

One of the first big stars to break the code was Jayne Mansfield, whose topless role in Promises! Promises! landed her on the Top 10 list of Box Office Attractions for 1963.

Since then many A-listers have taken it off for their art.

Recently both Amanda Seyfried and Julianne Moore stripped in Chloe. Anne Hathaway and Michelle Williams wore their birthday suits in Love and Other Drugs and Blue Valentine respectively.

But it’s not just women exposing themselves.

Gerard Butler let it all hang out in Mrs. Brown and Gamer and Daniel Craig is buck naked in Love is the Devil.

Producer Judd Apatow promises more male nudity in his films.

“It really makes me laugh in this day and age that anyone is troubled by seeing any part of the human body.”

2 scene

Scene in brief

A lawsuit filed by owners of a minor league baseball team claims an Illinois city violated its contract and misled the team about the prospect of building a ballpark. Actor Kevin Costner of Field of Dreams is among the owners of the Lake County Fielders. They’ve been battling the city of Zion in northeastern Illinois for months over the team’s collapse this year.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Big Bang Theory star Jim Parsons aims for a Broadway return in Harvey

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Dragon Tattoo, a family affair

The star of Swedish movie series reveals daughter's role in U.S. remake that features Daniel Craig as star

The star of Sweden's The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo movie says his daughter appears in the upcoming U.S. remake with the actor who takes on his role in the crime drama: Daniel Craig.

Michael Nyqvist and Craig both play investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist in the films based on the popular crime trilogy from Swedish author Stieg Larsson.

Sweden's Millennium television series, which includes adaptations of Larsson's other books in the series — The Girl Who Played with Fire and The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest — just won the 2011 International Emmy for best TV miniseries.

LAURI NEFF/AP PHOTO

▶ Michael Nyqvist

Swedish-born Nyqvist said he was curious to see the American version because he says David Fincher "is such a good director and Craig is a good actor," and because his 21-year-old daughter, Ellen, is an extra in the film "by coincidence."

The film has a scene shot in a Stockholm, Sweden, cafe where his daughter, a college student, was working.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Actor Patton Oswalt, left, actress Charlize Theron and director Jason Reitman attend the IFP's 21st Annual Gotham Independent Film Awards at Cipriani Wall Street on Monday in New York.

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499 Main St. S
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975 Elgin St. W, Unit B
ETOBICOKE
Sherway Gardens
1234 The Queensway
22 Dixon Rd.
6620 Finch Ave. W, Unit 4
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Georgetown Market Place
KESWICK
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2943 Major Mackenzie Dr., Unit 4
MARKHAM
3636 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 101
9570 McCowan Rd., Unit 4
505 Hood Rd., Unit 12
7780 Woodbine Ave., Unit 3
4300 Steeles Ave. E, Unit E32
4300 Steeles Ave. E, Unit E67
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MISSISSAUGA
Meadowvale Town Centre
Square One
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
153 Lakeshore Rd. E
6325 Dixie Rd., Unit 1
3105 Dundas St. W, Unit 102
7955 Financial Dr., Unit B
808 Britannia Rd. W, Unit 2
25 Watline Ave., Unit 10
7205 Goreway Dr.
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NORTH YORK
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Sheridan Mall
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4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
Fairview Mall
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5815 Yonge St.
3111 Dufferin St.
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OAKVILLE
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1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
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9350 Yonge St.
Times Square Mall
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2555 Victoria Park Ave.
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2397 Yonge St.
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EVAN AGOSTINI/AP PHOTO

U.S. flicks tie for best at Gotham gala

For the first time in history, Gotham Independent Film Awards find themselves 'stuck' over top prize The Tree of Life, Beginners both take home best feature

Award season kicked off with a tie for best feature at the annual Gotham Independent Film Awards as Terrence Malick's highly imaginative The Tree of Life shared the night's high honour with Mike Mills' flashback comedy, Beginners.

Presenter Tilda Swinton introduced the nominees, but before opening the envelope to reveal the winner, deferred to a prerecorded message on the venue's large video screens.

The unprecedented ruling was then announced by jury member Natalie Portman, who explained that her peers were faced with the dilemma of being stuck when it came to selecting a winner, so they made a bold and independent decision and chose to honour both.

Swinton then read off the winners' names and presented the award.

The Tree of Life, starring Brad Pitt and Sean Penn, won the Palm d'Or at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. Beginners was released last year and stars Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer.

Other winners included Felicity Jones for breakthrough actor in Like Crazy, the cast of Beginners for ensemble cast and Scenes of a Crime for best film not playing at a theatre near you. The audience award went to Girlfriend, a film about a young man with Down syndrome who has a crush on a troubled single mother.

Hosted by Edie Falco and Oliver Platt, the presenters were mostly darlings of the independent film world like Stanley Tucci, Melissa Leo, actress and directorial nominee Vera Farmiga and Swinton.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Artist, Take Shelter lead Spirit Award noms

The silent movie The Artist and doomsday drama Take Shelter lead the Spirit Awards honouring independent films with five nominations each. Other nominees include 50/50; Drive; Beginners and The Descendants.

Lead actor nominees are Jean Dujardin, The Artist; Michael Shannon, Take Shelter; Ryan Gosling, Drive; Demian Bichir, A Better Life; and Woody Harrelson, Rampart. Up for lead actress are Lauren Ambrose, Think of Me; Rachel Harris, Natural Selection; Adepero Oduye, Pariah; Elizabeth Olsen, Martha Marcy May Marlene; and Michelle Williams, My Week with Marilyn. For more information about nominees visit spiritawards.com

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Stage Notes

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Rock 'n' roll in Memphis, this season

Opening next week at Toronto's Centre for the Arts is the Tony Award winning musical Memphis

Loosely based on the story of a white Memphis DJ who shatters societal taboos by playing music sung by black musicians on commercial radio, Memphis is the latest rock 'n' roll musical to hit Toronto.

Standout musical numbers include the Elton John-esque Music of my Soul as well as the cast-driven gospel enthused Steal Your Rock 'n' Roll.

While the heavy-handedness of the material does spill into the show's lyrics (after all, the play is about race relations in 1950s Memphis) the overall vibe is upbeat and enthusiastic.

COURTESY OF MEMPHIS

▶ A scene from the award-winning Memphis.

With its concise story line and catchy songs, Memphis is the perfect entertainment for those who need a break from holiday madness, just don't be surprised if you wind up whistling some soul music instead of a Christmas carol!

Memphis runs from December 6 to 24 at the Toronto's Centre for the Arts at Yonge and Sheppard. Tickets start at $35/52 with sceneopolis.

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Is this the new Age of Aquarius?

Hair musical echoes Occupy message, say '69 cast • Tony award winning production runs Dec 13 to Dec. 31.

With Hair the musical set to return to Toronto in a couple of weeks, some cast members from the city's original 1969 production say the remount has particular resonance amid the recent Occupy movement.

"The audience was always meant to be a part of the show," said Lynda Squires-Davies, a singer who was in the chorus and occasionally played Crissy.

"And now the audience again is a part of the show because they're feeling those sentiments and emotions that people felt in the '60s.

The 2009 Tony Award-winning revival of Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical runs at the Royal Alexandra Theatre Dec. 13 to Dec. 31.

Written by James Rado and Gerome Ragni, the story follows a "tribe" of free-spirited young people advocating the hippie, counterculture lifestyle of pacifism and free-love during the Vietnam War. Songs include the hits Aquarius, Let the Sun Shine In, Hair and Good Morning Starshine.

When Hair debuted in New York in '67 and then premiered in Toronto with a homegrown cast in '69, "it was a call of a generation," said Squires-Davies, 60, who had waist-long brown hair back then.

The show has been remounted several times since but hasn't always carried the same punch, she noted.

"The productions we saw maybe in the '80s or the '90s, they just didn't seem real because even the audiences, they didn't really get it because they weren't feeling it at that time," said Squires-Davies, noting those were decades of materialism.

THE HAIR NATIONAL TOUR COURTESY OF JOAN MARCUS

▶ The cast of Hair.

"But now I think people are more inclined to realize the sort of suffering that goes on in the world and they're fed up with all the wars in the Middle East."

This particular return also has new meaning given the Occupy movement, she added.

"It's really funny how things go hand in hand, you know, you go down into the parks in Toronto and you see the Occupy movement and then you look at the kids sitting there and they've got long hair, they've got sort of hippie clothing on."

Wayne St. John, who was the understudy for the character Hud and alternated the lead role of Berger, echoed those sentiments: "We're having exactly the same problems today, if not 10 times or 20 times worse."

"It speaks freedom now," added the 66-year-old singer, who lives in Markham, Ont.

"The same words that you see at Occupy, we had them onstage in signs and stuff."

The Royal Alexandra Theatre is where the city's original production of Hair ran with a Canuck cast from '69 to '71, becoming the first theatrical show to play a record 53-week engagement in the city.

Audience members who caught the original Toronto production included then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau and author Pierre Berton.

"It was very exciting because in 1969, theatre in Toronto was maybe a one or two-week run and it was all touring shows," said Squires-Davies, who lives in Toronto with her husband, music publisher Frank Davies.

"The Royal Alex was actually in an area that was basically a no-man's land. When you came out of the theatre at night it was all warehouses and parking lots, so you grabbed a cab – fast – to get home."

As with the hit New York productions, the Toronto run featured many non-professionals with raw talent who auditioned in an open casting call that drew 1,500.

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Dear Amazon, will you read my book? It took me years to write; will you take a look?

Patrick deWitt's comic western tops Amazon.ca's Best Books of 2011

The much-lauded novel The Sisters Brothers by Vancouver Island native Patrick deWitt has topped Amazon.ca's Best Books of 2011 list.

Earlier this month, the comic western won a Governor General's Literary Award and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

It also made the Scotiabank Giller Prize and Britain's Man Booker Prize short lists.

Another novel that made the aforementioned short lists and ended up winning the Giller, Half-Blood Blues by Victoria-based Esi Edugyan, is No. 5 on Amazon.ca's compilation of the top 100 books of 2011.

Amazon.ca book editors choose the annual list, which also includes American author Erik Larson's non-fiction title In the Garden of Beasts at No. 2.

Coming in at No. 3. was The Art of Fielding: A Novel by American Chad Harbach, followed by the novel 1Q84 by Japan's Haruki Murakami.

This list is rounded out by What It's Like to Go to War by Karl Marlantes; The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides; The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje; Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson; and Hot Art by Joshua Knelman. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Patrick deWitt arrives for the Giller Prize awards in Toronto earlier this month.

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What feels write

Feeling literary? National Novel Writing Month challenges wannabe novelists to pen a book in 30 days

SAM SWEENEY
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

Less than 5,000 words keep me from becoming a true novelist at midnight tomorrow. Without NaNoWriMo, I probably would've never written so much.

The added pressure of a deadline was the real pusher, and I suggest that young writers give themselves a time limit and see how much they can write.

I'm going to record how much I write every 30 days and try to beat it in the next 30!

Here are a few other lessons NaNoWriMo taught me.

To be a writer, one must constantly be writing.
This was the most important lesson of a full month of non-stop work: keep going.

Take inspiration and keep forging ahead
Looking to others' work — as I did when I was frustrated and hit a creative drought — has its place, but so does simply writing through the tough, tiring moments.

Also, typing out thoughts half-asleep can produce some great stuff!

Listen to the critic... a little
Take criticism; but if you feel good about a bit of your story someone else doesn't, keep it in there. Not everyone understands your style.

But also realize that your favourite part with the moonlight kiss on the beaches of Fiji may not work in a story taking place in space. Or maybe it will. If it feels right, keep it as a really expensive, romantic astronaut honeymoon.

You could even title the book, Honey, Moon. Maybe I'll start writing that on Dec. 1.

NaNoWriMo?

National Novel Writing Month asks aspiring authors to write a 175-page novel in November.

Writing philosophy: "It's all about quantity, not quality. This approach forces you to lower your expectations, take risks, and write on the fly," according to the NaNoWriMo website (nanowrimo.org)

More baby mama drama for Biebs

- **Man steps forward claiming to be the father of Mariah Yeater's child**
- **Robbie Powell was recently charged with drug possession, burglary**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mariah Yeater

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Before the illustrious Mariah Yeater (that's her booking photo, there) accused Justin Bieber of fathering her child, the last time I wrote about a situation so low-rent was during the Levi Johnston baby daddy drama with the Palins.

The latest on the possible Biebs baby?

While the 17-year-old pop star maintains he isn't the father of Yeater's infant son, the man who does claim to be, Robbie Powell, was arrested over the weekend in San Diego, according to Hollyscoop.

The 23-year-old was charged with possession of methamphetamines and drug paraphernalia, as well as three charges of commercial burglary.

He's currently being held on $7,000 bail.

Sources say Powell is looking to go public with his claims that Yeater made up the story about Bieber fathering her child, but he hasn't settled on a media outlet yet.

After all of this, I hope that Bieber is the father just so that poor baby might have a chance at life.

▶ Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard.

Maggie Gyllenhaal expecting again

Maggie Gyllenhaal and husband Peter Sarsgaard are gearing up to welcome another member to their family, as Gyllenhaal is pregnant with their second child, according to Life & Style.

"Over Thanksgiving weekend, Maggie was telling friends that she's six months pregnant. Her bump is so big," a source says.

"She's thrilled to be pregnant. She and Peter have wanted another child for a while. They're very happy that they'll have another baby in the house soon."

The couple, who married in 2009, have a 5-year-old daughter, Ramona.

METRO

Gosselin shoots down plastic surgery rumours

Kate Gosselin (new occupation: blogger at CouponCabin.com, continuing her fame-seeker tendencies) is shooting down Internet rumours that she got a facelift.

"With all of the buzz about me having had a facelift, I will confirm that I have not had one (I am only 36!!!). But, I will take all of the talk about how rested and young I look as a compliment! So thanks!" she wrote.

I love Gosselin's "I'm only 36!" excuse for not having plastic surgery, as that didn't stop her from getting a tummy tuck in 2007 and breast implants in 2009. But, to be fair, she is 36 and is a single mom to eight kids.

Girlfriend probably needs all the plastic surgery she can get, under 40 or no.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

Celebrity tweets

@NathanFillion

New Yorkers, I love how stylish and beautiful you all are. Have lunch with me?

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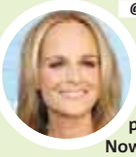
I'm completely in love... Ive never felt this way before. Ribbon & Cimarron have stolen my heart... They're horses. :)



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3 life

Travel in brief

A pair of wilderness tour operators in Yukon and a geology-themed park in New Brunswick have won 2011 Canadian Tourism Awards. Nahanni River Adventures and Canadian River Expeditions, both based in Whitehorse, won the award for sustainable tourism.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caribbean tourist operators expect more visitors, brace for drop in spending

A commission has been working since the 1930s to preserve New Orleans' French Quarter

ABUNDANTC/FLICKR

▶ The Vieux Carre Commission regulates all changes — big and small — to the exterior of buildings in the French Quarter.

On a muggy autumn New Orleans morning in the French Quarter, away from bawdy Bourbon Street, Natchez residents sat on their stoops drinking rich cafe au lait, reading the newspaper, or watching the passing traffic.

Replace the cars with horses and carriages and the scene could well be from a couple of hundred years ago.

The old city remains vital with a steady mix of residents and small businesses mostly thanks to the Vieux Carre Commission, which regulates changes to the buildings in the small section of New Orleans near the Mississippi River. The commission has control over every part of a building's exterior.

A rotting sill in the back of the house cannot be replaced without permission. A wall can't be painted or a window removed or a roof changed without permission. It's a sore point for some, but the results of such strict control are noticeable.

When the commission was formed during the Great Depression, the 85-square-block Quarter that was laid out by French settlers in 1718 had become a collection of derelict buildings. The idea of preserving an entire area was novel.

"What was considered ahead of time was that up until then American preservation was preservation of individual structures, Mount Vernon for instance," said Walter Gaillas, with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Back then, nobody thought of it as, 'Gee, maybe there is another way to preserve a whole community.' Now there are hundreds of commissions like that around the country."

The French Quarter, also known as the Vieux Carre (Old Square) as it was once called, had fallen on hard times by 1936. Once-grand townhouses were tenements, and city officials were seriously considering tearing down the majestic old buildings that frame Jackson Square — Upper Pontalba and the Cabildo — where the Louisiana Purchase was signed in 1803.

Then along came the Vieux Carre Commission, dedicated to preservation while keeping the area a functioning part of the community.

"The commission is not about keeping things looking pretty but addressing what's appropriate to character and quality of all the parts that make up this neighbourhood," said Vieux Carre Commission director Lary Hesdorffer. "We have the benefit of not being frozen in time."

The idea, Hesdorffer said, is not to return the French Quarter — which is a real neighbourhood with people living there and real businesses operating on its streets — to what it was when it was founded, but to keep the historical presence this generation inherited.

"We have many different styles in the French Quarter from different eras," Hesdorffer said. "We're now treasuring buildings that have been renovated along the way."

As an example, Hesdorffer points to the famous "lace" iron work on French Quarter balconies, which came in the 1800s, replacing the original plain iron-work.

"That sort of layering thing is what makes this historic district particularly rich because we represent some things that date to the colonial period," he said. "But not many are in pure form. Over the years, they've been updated, changed."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vieux Carre Commission

- Nine volunteer members and a staff of five make up the commission. The volunteers are appointed by the mayor and approved by the city council.

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Postcards from the planet

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MUI NE, VIETNAM
NOV. 19, 2011

That's my son Ethan in the picture. He's 9 and yes, he's riding an Ostrich. It happened quite by accident. We were visiting the famous White Sand dunes when we happened on a man offering the rides. For 40,000 Vietnamese Dong (about $1.50 Canadian) my kids could take a one-lap ride on one of the big birds. Ethan jumped at the chance and the ear to ear grin that sprouted over that 60-second ride was worth a lot more than the money we paid.

WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HEATHER'S FAMILY ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL TIPS AT WHEREPARENTSTALK.COM

Las Vegas eyes stopover travellers

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The new terminal at the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, opening in June, needs more traveller traffic to justify its $2.4 billion price tag.

Never mind "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," Las Vegas's enigmatic tourism slogan. Perhaps the new slogan for America's gambling capital should be "Stop over for a quickie in Sin City."

A quick visit, that is. Las Vegas tourism officials are betting that a new air terminal will lure some travellers to use Las Vegas as a regular stopover en route to Asia or other foreign places.

Some might never leave McCarran International Airport, while others might decide to make casinos happy by hopping in a cab and spending a few hours gambling.

Either way is fine with the airport. It just needs enough people travelling here to justify a $2.4 billion expansion conceived when Las Vegas was much busier. The new terminal opens in June.

The city still expects most visitors to vacation for longer periods, but the new pitch marks a big change from past years when Vegas could count on filling planes solely as a destination. Since the Great Recession crushed tourism, airlines have cancelled Vegas-bound routes and left casinos scrambling for customers. The new terminal also would let travellers heading to Asia or elsewhere avoid longer lines at customs in Los Angeles or San Francisco and take advantage of cheap fares to Vegas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bavarian Illusion

Kimberley, B.C.'s kitschy Bavarian theme was conceived in the 1970s to lure tourists Today the ski town offers more than schnitzel, though it's still a draw

Kimberley's Bavarian theme gives the town a European feel.

Schnitzel houses, German music playing in shops at the Platzl and a yodelling cuckoo clock — could it be more Bavarian?

In the City of Kimberley, B.C., it's all just a delightful illusion.

This picturesque little community in the heart of the Rocky Mountains has the feel of a European village, and the Kimberley Alpine Resort is internationally renowned for world-class skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling.

In the summer, mountain bikers explore its pristine trails and fishermen, campers and golfers visit in droves but, despite its claim to be the "Bavarian City of the Rockies," it turns out its German roots are only skin deep.

"It was just a theme that was chosen. It really didn't come out of any fact that there was a large Bavarian community or anything like that," acknowledges Sioban Staplin, manager of the Kimberley Chamber of Commerce.

"In the early 1970s, the city fathers were informed by Teck Cominco that the mine would be depleted in a certain number of years and, if they weren't going to fall off the map and turn into an old mining ghost town, they had better get their act together and brace the tourism economy."

Kimberley used Leavenworth, Wash., as a model. It adopted the Bavarian theme back in the 1960s, when the railway left the community and the local sawmill closed.

"It worked very well for many, many years but, I wouldn't necessarily say that visitors are more sophisticated now, but they're looking for more authentic experiences and they quickly see that this isn't the real McCoy," admitted Staplin.

In other words, the German roots in Kimberley have been branching out a little. "I don't know about reinventing but Kimberley is certainly evolving. We're more than a Bavarian theme town. We're definitely a four-season destination," she said.

"Ten years ago the kitschy Bavarian stuff was removed at that time and it has more of an alpine/European flavour, which I think is working quite well."

That doesn't mean that the Bavarian theme is going away anytime soon. A survey found residents and businesses were adamant about keeping the largest freestanding cuckoo clock in Canada and the Platzl, a quaint outdoor pedestrian plaza at the centre of the downtown.

"Folks say even if the theme were to change, they want that clock there because generations have been brought up (with it), popped the coin in and Happy Hans pops out and yodels."

Kimberley also bills itself as the City of Festivals and is home to a thriving arts and cultural scene.

One of the more unique, said Staplin, is the The Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships in the second week of July.

"There's five or six days when we're invaded by the silver hair RV set and some younger folk as well. They get out there and dance and they play their accordions and have a heck of a good time," she said with a chuckle.

Other festivals include JulyFest, which includes Canada's Championship Bocce Tournament, Miners' Day as well as Arts on the Edge in August and the grassroots Kootenay Dirtbag Film and Photo Fest on Thanksgiving weekend in October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kimberley is home to the largest freestanding cuckoo clock in Canada.

If you go...

- Check out the Kimberley Alpine Resort for skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling.
- Take a ride on Kimberley's Underground Mining Railway as it winds through the Mark Creek Valley. The railway links downtown with the site of the old Sullivan Mine surface facilities and recent mine reclamation activities.
- Try the schnitzel at the Old Baurenhaus Restaurant, an Alpine log house and cider barn built in Germany in 1640 that was transported and reassembled in Kimberley in 1989.

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Winter wonderland?

Empty oil drums, old cars and satellite dishes are a snowboarder's delight Some ski resorts are offering interesting snow park obstacles

WINTER PARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Using odd items as snow park jumps and slides keeps them out of the landfill.

Some U.S. ski resorts are turning into junkyards — and snowboarders couldn't be happier.

Satellite dishes, propane tanks, empty oil drums and even a Chevy Impala are popping up in terrain parks across the country. It's a new form of recycling and is adding back some edge to what has become a mainstream sport.

Snowboarding started as a rebellious activity. Riding rails, pipes and picnic benches was a way to break out of the norm. Today, those features have become standard. So to add some uniqueness and push the sport to a new level, resorts have turned to rummaging through junk piles. The recycled objects are placed on the slopes as challenges for snowboarding jumps, slides and other manoeuvres.

"We've had the same stuff going on for years and years. Now they are just trying to get crazy with it," said Lakota Sage, a 21-year-old professional snowboarder at Colorado's Echo Mountain.

Sage is out on the mountain almost daily and loves the new features, including a 1960s-era trail-grooming machine called a snowcat. It was found in the woods on the resort with bullet holes from locals who used it for target practice and now sits by a railing on the course.

"It helps push the athletes a little more because it's more intimidating. If you do fall off the railing, you're going to nail the snowcat," he said.

This winter, boarders at Sol Vista Basin at Granby Ranch in Colorado will find a two-metre tall satellite dish poached from a stranger taking it to the dump. Other mountains have taken old chairlift towers, tractor tires, snowmaking pipes, logs and concrete barriers and given them a second life on the mountain. There's a fibreglass horse at Colorado's Winter Park, and California's Northstar has incorporated an old gondola cabin in its terrain park.

"It feels pretty unique to hit something that I normally ride up in," said Mike Schipani, manager of Northstar's terrain park.

The new effort also keeps junk out of the landfill and saves ski resorts some cash. Schipani said he spends about $1,800 for each six-metre-long piece of steel he puts on the mountain.

Many amateur boarders are creating videos in hopes of pushing themselves into a professional career. The used cars, satellite dishes and other objects help them stand out. "Without innovation, I think our sport would become pretty stagnant," Schipani said.

The idea of putting recycled items on the mountain started about five years ago but really picked up last season, according to Jason George, the terrain park manager at Colorado's Copper Mountain.

"It's green and we like to recycle," he said.

Propane tanks are popular but a bit tricky. Before a welder can start to repurpose them, the tanks have to be filled with water, pushing out any leftover combustible gas.

The appeal of these obstacles is that they are different. As more and more parks add satellite dishes and cars, mountain workers are just going to have to work harder to find that new, unique item to keep on attracting boarders. George knows that and is already hard at work.

"I'm rummaging through all the old boneyards to see what I can come up with. I'm quite the rummager," he said. "Anything we can find, that kids can slide, we'll use."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AARON DODDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many amateurs are creating videos in the hopes of pushing themselves into professional careers.

Time to hit the slopes

If you're planning your ski vacation for this winter, check out some of these hills.

- Sol Vista Basin at Granby Ranch in Colorado opens for the season on Dec. 14.
- Echo Mountain in Colorado opens today.
- Northstar resort in California is already open.
- Copper Mountain in Colorado is already open.

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Christmas on 'the rock'

In St. John's, N.L., revelers known as mummers dress up and visit friends and relatives It's a tradition that fascinates visitors

An oversized bra worn over a plaid shirt with a flowing skirt, a face-shielding lace doily, a floppy hat and an ugly stick.

That's a fairly standard costume for the wild and wonderful Yuletide tradition called mummering — just one of many ways Christmas turns into a full-on festival of concerts, kitchen parties and theatre on the Rock.

In the seaside capital city of St. John's, N.L., the annual mummers parade is a colourful tribute to the playful custom of dress-up and visiting that's still popular in some outports around the island.

An ugly stick, in case you haven't made it this far East, is a home-made percussion instrument. It's often a broom or mop handle with dozens of beer caps, small bells and other noisemakers attached, a tin can on top and, sometimes, a boot on the bottom for stability as it's played with a drumstick.

Mummering is a blend of traditions believed to have migrated to Newfoundland from England and Ireland early in the 19th century. Also known as mumming or janneying, it generally works like this: groups of relatives or friends decked out in costumes knock on the door of a neighbour's house.

They ask something such as, "Mummers allowed in?" And, if welcomed, the hosts try to guess their visitors' identities before serving drinks and food. Gender-bending dress and talking while inhaling are some of the tricks used to throw off the guessers. Mummers have also been known to dance a jig or play a tune as part of the game.

It's a tradition that fascinates people from outside the province, said Dale Jarvis, a folklorist at the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The foundation revitalized the mummers parade three years ago and has since watched it take on a life of its own.

"The first year we ran the parade, we had a fellow who flew in from Nova Scotia," Jarvis said. "He had read about it online and wanted to experience it for himself."

Ryan Davis is leading this year's event, set for Dec. 17. He expects it to be even bigger than the last parade, which drew about 350 mummers.

"I'm anticipating a really big increase this year," he said, based on inquiries and interest.

Mummering is a great leveller that, for a short time, frees people from the constraints of age, income and gender while they're in disguise, Davis said.

"It's just a lot of fun."

Gaylynne Lambert, a marketing and events coordinator with Downtown St. John's, has never spent Christmas away from the city. "I couldn't," she said. "Christmas is the one time of year that we all

▶ Mummering entails groups of friends or relatives decked out in costumes knocking on the door of a neighbour's house to be invited in for drinks and food.

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make a point to get together in one group," the youngest of six kids said of her brothers, sisters, nine nieces and nephews.

"There's tons of stuff going on," she added, rhyming off a heady list of holiday concerts featuring popular traditional, rock and folk musicians.

A classical favourite is the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra's yearly rendition of Handel's Messiah at the soaring St. John's Basilica. Concerts are scheduled for Dec. 16 and 17.

"It's an absolute world-class performance," Lambert said.

And then there's the charm of downtown St. John's itself, its bright clapboard buildings nestled around a pretty harbour that's crowned by a Christmas star atop Signal Hill.

"It's a great time to come to the city," Lambert said.

"We're friendly anyway, but everybody smiles a little bigger. Everybody's a little softer, nicer, kinder. "It's a very welcoming place to be for somebody who perhaps has to be away from home for Christmas or is by themselves."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- For information on the Mummer's Festival visit mummersfestival.ca
- For details on the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra visit nso-music.com
- Spirit of Newfoundland visit spiritofnewfoundland.com

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HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

With less than one month until Christmas, the holiday season is in full swing. Having said that, we all know how stressful this time of the year can be, but there are ways to prepare.

Each week, we'll provide you with a great make-ahead recipe that you can make and share as a hostess gift or serve up as an entertaining idea for your holiday get-together.

Chili Spiced Nuts

These nuts are perfect to serve up in a little bowl for fingers to dip into while enjoying drinks.

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Preparation:

1. In large bowl, toss almonds, walnut halves and pistachios with oil, chili powder, cumin, oregano, paprika, salt and pepper until well coated.
2. Spread onto parchment paper lined baking sheet and roast in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until golden brown and fragrant. Remove from oven and stir in pepitas. Let cool completely in baking sheet on cooling rack.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

Holiday prep

We're here to help

Every Wednesday until Christmas, Metro's Emily Richards will provide you tips to make the holiday whirlwind a bit less stressful. Check out the next edition of Holiday Helper on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) whole unblanched almonds
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) walnut halves
- 1 cup (250 mL) shelled pistachios
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) extra virgin or canola oil
- 2 tsp (10 mL) chili powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) smoked sweet paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) roasted pepitas (green pumpkin seeds)

EMILY RICHARDS

This recipe makes about 5 cups (1.25 L).

Drink of the week

Almond Apple-tini

Over the years, the martini has become one of the best-known alcoholic beverages. But this Almond Apple-tini offers a non-alcoholic twist on the classic.

- 1 oz (2 tbsp) almond beverage
- 2 oz (1/4 cup) apple juice
- Splash caramel syrup
- Dash fresh lemon juice
- 1 apple slice

In a martini shaker, combine almond beverage, apple juice, caramel syrup and lemon juice. Shake vigorously and serve in a martini glass. Garnish with an apple slice. **ALMONDFRESH.COM**

Brave the chillier days ahead

Easy Clam Chowder goes from stove to table in less than 30 minutes

Preparation:

1. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat; add celery and onion and sauté for 2 to 3 minutes to soften.
2. Add milk; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and stir in potatoes. Continue cooking, stirring constantly, for 2 to 3 minutes or until slightly thickened.
3. Add clams with liquid, Worcestershire sauce, salt and hot pepper sauce; simmer for 5 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, to blend flavours.
4. Serve garnished with parsley, if desired. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CLOVER LEAF**

Ingredients:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each diced celery and onion
- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) milk
- 250 ml (1 cup) instant mashed potatoes
- 2 cans (each 142 g) baby clams (undrained)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Worcestershire sauce
- 3 ml (3/4 tsp) salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper sauce
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fresh parsley

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Brand power:
Say my **name**, say my **name**

A recruitment expert offers advice for those hoping to be remembered ◗ Sales and marketing students take note

CHELSEA NEWTON
TALENTEGG.CA

The competition on campus between employers is getting hot as the economy picks up and companies' hiring numbers increase.

A shift is starting, where students will have more power as the number of jobs available increases; however, we aren't quite there yet.

As a student, it is important to play a lead role in choosing your first job out of school and selling yourself to your employer(s) of choice.

Your personal brand — online

Your online personality should mirror how you come across in person.

"Show you spent some time researching my company online, even talking to past interns or employees, and understanding the culture." CHELSEA NEWTON, DIRECTOR OF TALENT ACQUISITION AT MOSAIC SALES SOLUTIONS

Ensure that, if your future employer seeks you out on LinkedIn, Twitter, or Facebook, there is consistency in the things you say you are knowledgeable about or roles you played in extra-curricular activities.

Things like LinkedIn recommendations are very valuable, especially with LinkedIn launching a new student profile option.

ISTOCK

▶ Does your authentic persona match the one you see on the screen in front of you?

Often future employers will perform a social media search on their top candidates — think of this as a reference check.

Make sure that you hide information that future employers don't need to see (e.g., Facebook photos) and remember that social media is permanent.

Your personal brand — in person

For in-person events, network and showcase your personality as well as your interests and skills.

When I interview for entry-level marketing roles, I look more for a strong personal impression than wide sales/marketing experience — I can teach you how to be successful, but I can't teach you how to think critically or have personal credibility.

I want you to highlight your interests, where you think the industry is going, recent highlights at my specific company, and why you believe you fit the company culture.

Show you spent some time researching my company online, even talking to past interns or employees, and understanding our culture.

Don't treat every networking session, interview or online application the same. Most recruiters are very open to telling you the unique parts of their company, so talk to them and ask for a follow-up prep call prior to an interview.

If you don't meet a recruiter on campus, reach out to them via LinkedIn. Recruiters will highlight great candidates' applications if you wow them.

Consider this reach-out like dating — you only have one opportunity to make that perfect impression that might lead to a relationship (or in this case, a fantastic career)!

CHELSEA NEWTON IS THE DIRECTOR OF TALENT ACQUISITION AT MOSAIC SALES SOLUTIONS. HER EXPERTISE IS IN HIRING YOUNG ADULTS AND SHE HAS BUILT CAMPUS RECRUITING PROGRAMS IN OVER 12 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.

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Start with the man in the mirror

Do a branding exercise to understand your unique value to a future employer. Think about how you present yourself both in person at company campus recruiting events or interviews, and in online spaces.

Things you should evaluate include:

- How you dress
- The language you use
- How you can showcase specific accomplishments
- How you come across to employers — do you seem credible/real?

Questions?

Ask me anything!

- Do you have questions about personal branding, finding a job, or starting your career?
- Tweet me at @Chelsea_Newton and I'll make your question the topic of one of my future articles!

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Party like a pro

Celebrating with work peeps can bring about a healthy sense of comraderie As long as you revel responsibly

JULIA WEST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

ISTOCK

Can't tell your boss from the new intern? Maybe it's time to slow down.

It's never a good time to lament to co-workers about your ex, or go into detail about your wild Friday night, but for some reason — also known as vodka — holiday parties tend to bring out unprofessional behaviour. Remember your party etiquette and you won't have to do damage control come Monday morning.

PARTY DOS:

Mingle with everyone
"Strike up conversations with those outside of your usual circle — especially the 'power brokers' within your company," suggests Christine Endres, the Philadelphia branch manager at hiring firm OfficeTeam. And feel free to venture outside of cubicle chitchat. "Have a few non-work topics to bring up, such as recent movies you've seen or holiday vacation plans," says Endres.

Dress appropriately
Dressing up is fine, but be sure to keep it classy. "It is a party, but you are still at work," says Jill Spiegel, author of How to Talk to Anyone About Anything! The Secrets of Connecting. "You want to keep your sense of professionalism."

PARTY DON'Ts:

Have that one last drink
This, of course, is the biggest faux-pas. A study by Wakefield Research for HomeGoods found that 29 per cent of respondents ranked a guest who drinks too much as the deadliest party sin. Overdoing it with friends is one thing, but overdoing it with the boss could be disastrous.

Participate in gossip
Bite your tongue if you must, but don't use this time to badmouth a colleague. And if someone else tries to pull you into the negativity? "Just change the energy and direction of the conversation through compliments and support," says Spiegel. "If you are kind to everyone, your positive energy is contagious."

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It's alive: Monster finds form

Suddenly hot Leafs goalie faces Bruins squad that put six pucks past him Oct. 20 'We're viewing it as a little bit of a measuring stick,' coach Ron Wilson says of Northeast Division clash

AL MESSERSCHMIDT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Maple Leafs goalie Jonas Gustavsson has turned aside doubts recently with a string of strong performances.

Jonas Gustavsson has seemingly had an answer for everything opponents have thrown at him over the past week or two. In doing so, the Toronto Maple Leafs goalie is delivering a message to his critics.

Written off by many early in the season, the man known as "The Monster" takes a personal four-game win streak into tonight's clash with Boston.

Gustavsson has managed to remain even-keeled through a turbulent first couple seasons in the NHL by avoiding most of what is said or written about him. But he knows there are those who doubt him.

"It's a big hockey market and there's always things going around," he said yesterday after practice. "I mean if there's no story, there has to be a story. I guess the goalie's always in the spotlight too.

"Either you're the hero or the guy that everyone's blaming."

He's been playing the hero role in the Leafs' surprising climb to the upper reaches of the Eastern Conference despite missing No. 1 goalie James Reimer to concussion-like symptoms for more than a month.

Initially, third-stringer Ben Scrivens was given the bulk of the work in Reimer's absence, prompting many to suggest Gustavsson's days could be numbered. But the Swede has bounced back — stopping 119 of 126 shots in his last four starts.

"When this hit, when (Scrivens) kind of had a few games, a lesser man could have really taken it in a bad way," said Reimer. "I know he went out in practice and just kept working hard and now he's playing phenomenal. I didn't really doubt that he could do it and sure enough, here he is.

"I'm really happy for the success he's had."

Added defenceman Carl Gunnarsson: "All I saw was him coming down and working his ass off every day. He's been doing well in practice and I think he's been doing good in the games he's played too."

"Right now we're playing yo-yo with these guys. One game we're ahead of them, the next game we're behind them."
BRUINS COACH CLAUDE JULIEN ON JOSTLING WITH THE LEAFS FOR THE NORTHEAST DIVISION LEAD

Gustavsson could be under siege with back-to-back games looming against the red-hot Bruins who have outscored the Leafs 13-2 combined in two games so far this season.

The Monster has a solid 8-4-0 record but is poised to get pushed to the background with Reimer nearing a return. Coach Ron Wilson expects Reimer to serve as backup Saturday in Boston and it's possible he'll play his first game since Oct. 22 next week.

But true to form, it's not something Gustavsson is spending much time focusing on.

"You can't really think further than where you're at right now," he said. "If I'm going to think about what's going to happen next week, I'm not going to be able to perform.

"That's the funny thing with this sport: You never know what's going to happen." THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Leafs preview

Bruins at Leafs
7 p.m.
TV: TSN

Toronto (14-8-2) hosts a Boston (14-7-1) team that is 11-0-1 in November. The Bruins have been bad news for the Leafs this season, handing Toronto its first loss and following that with a 7-0 rout on Nov. 5. Rich Peverley has 10 points in his last 10 games, while Tim Thomas looks to have found his Vezina-winning form with wins in his last eight starts. Only one point separates these rivals in a battle for the Northeast Division lead.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Jaguars get a reboot

Coach fired, team sold after 2-8 start New owner expected to keep team in Jacksonville

The Jacksonville Jaguars are headed in a completely new direction.

And Los Angeles doesn't appear to be the destination.

Team owner Wayne Weaver fired longtime coach Jack Del Rio yesterday after a 3-8 start and agreed to sell the Jaguars to Illinois businessman Shahid Khan. Weaver named defensive co-ordinator Mel Tucker the interim coach and gave general manager Gene Smith a three-year contract extension, putting him in charge of the coaching search.

The moves marked the most significant changes for the small-market franchise since its inception in 1993.

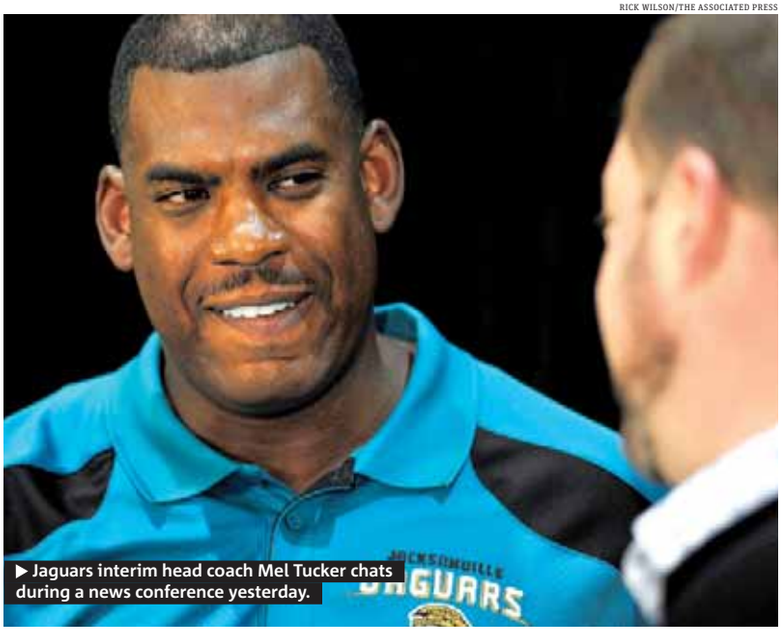
"It's the right thing at the right time and for the right reasons," Weaver said. "We deserve better; the community deserves better. We've been very average over the last few years. I take responsibility for a lot of that, making mistakes in some personnel things, but look positive ahead that this team is not far away from being a very competitive football team."

Forbes reported the sale to be worth $760 million US.

Weaver, who will turn 77 in January, had been looking for an "exit strategy" for years, wanting to find someone to buy the team and keep it in Jacksonville. He had tears in his eyes several times as he announced his impending departure.

"It's a little bittersweet, honestly, that it came as soon as it did," Weaver said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICK WILSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Jaguars interim head coach Mel Tucker chats during a news conference yesterday.

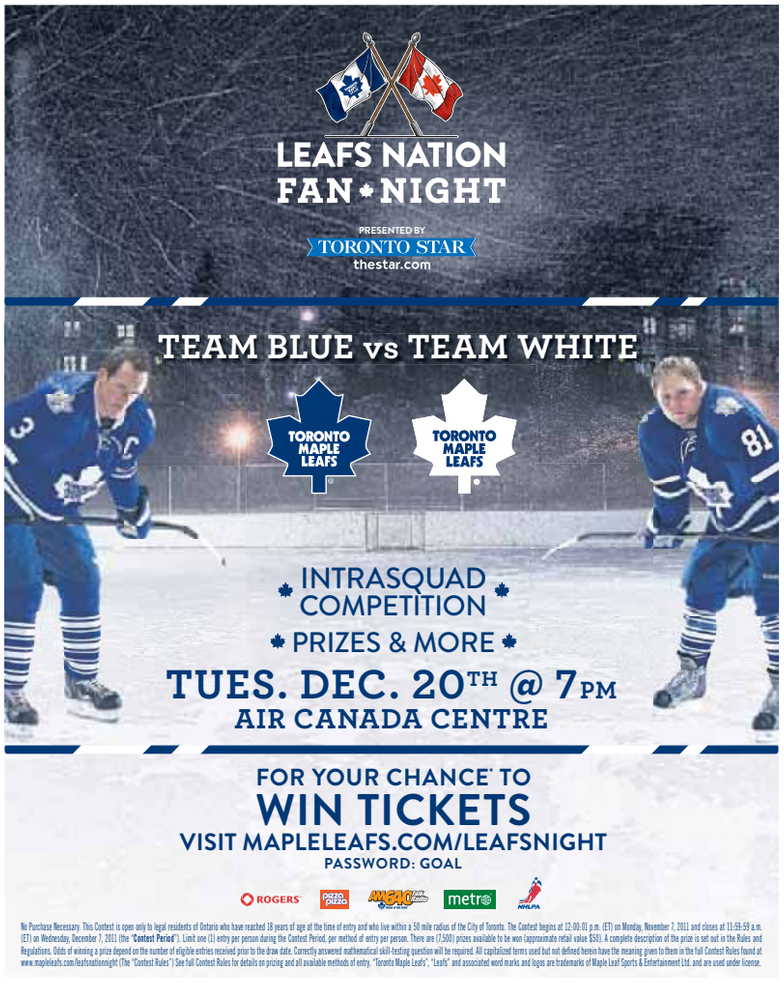
Kessel new vote leader

Don't expect Maple Leafs forward Phil Kessel to be selected last at this season's NHL all-star game fantasy draft.

Kessel, who leads the league with 16 goals and 31 points this season, has taken the overall lead in fan balloting for the Jan. 29 showcase game at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.

His total of 258,446 votes moved him past Senators defenceman Erik Karlsson, who leads all blue-liners with 256,839 votes in results released yesterday by the NHL. Ottawa forward Daniel Alfredsson was third overall (233,868).

The NHL held its first-ever player draft at last season's all-star game in Raleigh. Teams were decided through a fantasy draft and Kessel was selected with the 36th and final pick. THE CANADIAN PRESS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	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	25	14	7	2	2	80	63	32	8-1-2-0	6-6-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
d-Toronto	24	14	8	1	1	79	75	30	6-3-1-1	8-5-0-0	5-4-0-1	W3
d-Florida	24	13	7	1	3	67	60	30	5-2-1-3	8-5-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
NY Rangers	21	13	5	1	2	60	45	29	7-1-0-1	6-4-1-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Boston	22	14	7	0	1	75	47	29	9-5-0-1	5-2-0-0	9-0-0-1	W1
Philadelphia	23	13	7	2	1	82	68	29	6-4-1-1	7-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	L1
Buffalo	24	13	10	0	1	68	63	27	6-7-0-1	7-3-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
Washington	23	12	10	0	1	71	75	25	8-3-0-1	4-7-0-0	3-6-0-1	L3
New Jersey	22	12	9	0	1	57	58	25	5-4-0-1	7-5-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	23	11	10	0	2	63	72	24	7-3-0-0	4-7-0-2	5-5-0-0	L1
Ottawa	23	11	10	1	1	69	79	24	6-4-0-1	5-6-1-0	4-4-1-1	W1
Montreal	24	10	10	2	2	61	60	24	4-5-2-2	6-5-0-0	4-3-2-1	L2
Winnipeg	23	9	10	3	1	66	74	22	5-3-0-0	4-7-3-1	4-4-2-0	L1
Carolina	26	8	14	2	2	61	86	20	5-7-0-2	3-7-2-0	3-7-0-0	L4
NY Islanders	22	7	11	3	1	43	69	18	5-6-2-0	2-5-1-1	3-5-2-0	W2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	24	14	7	1	2	79	74	31	7-1-0-2	7-6-1-0	6-4-0-0	W2
d-Minnesota	24	14	7	2	1	57	53	31	9-4-1-0	5-3-1-1	7-3-0-0	W1
d-Dallas	24	14	9	0	1	62	65	29	8-3-0-1	6-6-0-0	3-6-0-1	W1
St. Louis	24	14	8	0	2	59	50	30	8-2-0-1	6-6-0-1	7-1-0-2	W4
Detroit	22	14	7	1	0	65	49	29	9-2-1-0	5-5-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
Los Angeles	24	12	8	2	2	57	55	28	7-6-0-1	5-2-2-1	6-3-1-0	W1
San Jose	21	13	7	1	0	60	48	27	6-4-1-0	7-3-0-0	6-3-1-0	L2
Phoenix	22	12	7	1	2	61	56	27	7-4-1-1	5-3-0-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Vancouver	23	13	9	0	1	69	59	27	5-3-0-1	8-6-0-0	7-3-0-0	W4
Nashville	23	11	8	3	1	60	62	26	4-3-2-1	7-5-1-0	4-4-2-0	W1
Edmonton	24	12	10	0	2	65	60	26	6-3-0-1	6-7-0-1	3-7-0-0	L2
Colorado	24	10	13	1	0	62	73	21	4-9-0-0	6-4-1-0	3-7-0-0	L1
Calgary	22	9	12	1	0	50	60	19	4-5-1-0	5-7-0-0	4-6-0-0	W1
Anaheim	23	6	13	1	3	50	77	16	4-8-0-0	2-5-1-3	1-8-0-1	L7
Columbus	23	6	14	0	3	54	75	15	5-7-0-1	1-7-0-2	4-6-0-0	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
N.Y. Islanders 2 Buffalo 1
St. Louis 2 Washington 1
Florida 3 Carolina 1
N.Y. Rangers 4 Pittsburgh 3
Ottawa at Winnipeg
Phoenix at Chicago
Nashville at Calgary
Columbus at Vancouver
Monday's results
Nashville 2 Edmonton 1
Dallas 3 Colorado 1
Los Angeles 2 San Jose 0
Minnesota 3 Tampa Bay 1
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Montreal at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Florida at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Montreal at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
Detroit at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

RANGERS 4, PENGUINS 3

First Period
1. Pittsburgh, Neal 14 (Crosby, Martin) 17:56 (pp)
Penalties — Kennedy Pgh, Avery NYR (roughing) 0:16, Kennedy Pgh, Avery NYR (fighting) 2:21, Gaborik NYR (interference) 8:41, Prust NYR (hooking) 12:59, Vitale Pgh, Eminger NYR (roughing), Lundqvist NYR (roughing; served by Gaborik) 16:36, Orpik Pgh (cross-checking), Richards NYR (slashing) 18:38.
Second Period
2. N.Y. Rangers, Callahan 9 (Gaborik, Richards) 8:01 (pp)
3. N.Y. Rangers, Mitchell 1 (Hagelin, Boyle) 14:09
4. N.Y. Rangers, Richards 9 (Fedotenko, Callahan) 15:39
5. N.Y. Rangers, Gaborik 11 (Del Zotto, Richards) 18:26 (pp)
6. Pittsburgh, Malkin 9 (Neal, Sullivan) 19:53
Penalties — Dupuis Pgh (holding) 6:10, Neal Pgh (tripping) 17:48.
Third Period
7. Pittsburgh, Dupuis 7 (Crosby, Engelland) 3:39
Penalties — McDonagh NYR (holding stick) 5:34, Malkin Pgh (slashing) 12:41, Engelland Pgh (slashing) 13:19, Orpik Pgh (tripping) 14:49, Kunitz Pgh (boarding) 17:06.
Shots on goal

Pittsburgh	14	10	3	27
N.Y. Rangers	9	15	6	30

Goal — Pittsburgh: Fleury (L,13-4-2); N.Y. Rangers: Lundqvist (W,10-4-3).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Pittsburgh: 1-4; N.Y. Rangers: 2-6.
Attendance — 18,200 (18,200) at New York.

ISLANDERS 2, SABRES 1

First Period
1. N.Y. Islanders, Moulson 8 (Streit, Parenteau) 6:47 (pp)
Penalties — Szczechura Buf (high-sticking) 5:39, Mottau NYI (slashing) 8:52, Martin NYI, Kassian Buf (fighting), Niederreiter NYI (interference) 13:27, Pominville Buf (holding) 16:17.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Kassian Buf (interference) 18:21.
Third Period
2. Buffalo, Hecht 2 (Pominville, Vanek) 1:54
3. N.Y. Islanders, Rolston 3 (Ullstrom, Bailey) 9:23
Penalties — Streit NYI (hooking) 10:42, Bailey NYI (kneeing) 11:08.
Shots on goal

N.Y. Islanders	6	12	12	—30
Buffalo	8	8	15	—31

Goal — N.Y. Islanders: Montoya (W,4-3-1); Buffalo: Enroth (L,8-4-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Islanders: 1-3; Buffalo: 0-4.
Attendance — 18,690 (18,690) at Buffalo, N.Y.

BLUES 2, CAPITALS 1

First Period
1. Washington, Backstrom 8 (Ovechkin, Vokoun) 10:15
2. St. Louis, Oshie 7 (Steen, Backes) 15:48
Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. St. Louis, D'Agostini 6 (Berglund, Stewart) 8:54
Penalties — Laich Wash (tripping) 3:52, Brouwer Wash (double high-sticking) 4:31, Shattenkirk StL (hooking) 5:28.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Nichol StL, Hendricks Wash (fighting) 1:59, Chimera Wash (tripping) 13:39, Oshie StL (slashing) 19:40.
Shots on goal

St. Louis	9	11	10	—30
Washington	5	6	8	—19

Goal — St. Louis: Halak (W,4-7-2); Washington: Vokoun (L,10-6-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — St. Louis: 0-4; Washington: 0-1.
Attendance — 18,506 (18,398) at Washington.

PANTHERS 3 AT HURRICANES 1

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Santorelli Fla (holding) 7:14.
Second Period
1. Florida, Fleischmann 11 (Campbell, Weiss) 10:45 (pp)
2. Carolina, Skinner 10 (E.Staal, Ruutu) 11:49
Penalties — Fleischmann Fla (hooking) 3:41, Matthias Fla (hooking) 8:13, Dwyer Car (boarding) 10:32.
Third Period
3. Florida, Matthias 4 (Kopecky) 16:41
4. Florida, Matthias 5, 19:11 (en)
Missed penalty shot — Skille Fla, 7:51.
Penalties — Jovanovski Fla (interference) 1:51, Allen Car (interference) 8:56, Gudbranson Fla (holding) 10:04.
Shots on goal

Florida	2	12	7	—21
Carolina	9	11	7	—27

Goal — Florida: Theodore (W,10-4-3); Carolina: Ward (L,8-11-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Florida: 1-2; Carolina: 0-5.
Attendance — 13,065 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Kessel, Tor	16	15	31
Giroux, Pha	13	16	29
Lupul, Tor	11	18	29
Versteeg, Fla	12	14	26

Last night's games not included

HOCKEY

AHL

Last night's results
Grand Rapids 4 Toronto 3 (OT)
Connecticut 4 Hershey 2
Norfolk 5 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton 2
Abbotsford at Milwaukee
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Texas at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Houston at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Friday's games
Bridgeport at Albany, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Manchester at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Portland at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
St. John's at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Adirondack at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Hershey at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Springfield at Worcester, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Rochester, 7:35 p.m.
Peoria at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Lake Erie at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Abbotsford at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Houston at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Binghamton at Worcester, 7 p.m.
Albany at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.
Texas at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Hamilton, 7 p.m.
Portland at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Providence at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Peoria, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Abbotsford at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.

SOCCER

(Home teams listed first)

ENGLAND

LEAGUE CUP
Quarter-finals
Cardiff 2 Blackburn 0
Chelsea 0 Liverpool 2
Arsenal 0 Manchester City 1
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
Burnley 4 Ipswich 0
Derby 0 Brighton 1
Leicester 2 Blackpool 0
Middlesbrough 0 West Ham 2
Millwall 3 Doncaster 2
Nottingham Forest 0 Leeds 4
Southampton 2 Hull 1
Watford 2 Bristol City 2
Reading 3 Peterborough 2

ITALY

SERIE A
Napoli 3 Juventus 3
COPPA D'ITALIA
Fourth Round
Parma 0 Verona 2
Catania 2 Novara 3

SPAIN

LA LIGA
Barcelona 4 Rayo Vallecano 0

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	331	223
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	256	241
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	261	281
Miami	3	8	0	.273	212	206

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	8	3	0	.727	293	179
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	226	212
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	138	200
Indianapolis	0	11	0	.000	150	327

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	272	182
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	233	188
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	259	215
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	165	216

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	260	274
Denver	6	5	0	.545	221	260
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	153	265
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	249	275

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	270	225
N.Y. Giants	6	5	0	.545	252	277
Philadelphia	4	7	0	.364	257	251
Washington	4	7	0	.364	183	222

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	362	252
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	259	227
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	199	291
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	252	305

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	11	0	0	1.000	382	227
Chicago	7	4	0	.636	288	232
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	316	246
Minnesota	2	9	0	.182	214	295

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	262	161
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	185	232
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	213	256
St. Louis	2	9	0	.182	140	270

Monday's result
New Orleans 49 N.Y. Giants 24
Tomorrow's game
All times Eastern
Philadelphia at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Kansas City at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Houston, 1 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Washington, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Miami, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at New England, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 5
San Diego at Jacksonville, 8:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jonathan Broxton on a one-year contract.
TEXAS RANGERS—Named Greg Maddux special assistant to the general manager.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with C Carlos Corporan on a minor league contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Named Joe Ayrault manager and Ned Yost IV coach of Brevard County (FSL); Jeff Isom manager and Don Money special instructor of Helena (Pioneer); and Andy Pratt professional scout.
NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with OF Adam Loewen on a minor league contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Released RHP Scott Mathieson.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Signed senior VP & GM Brian Sabean & manager Bruce Bochy to contract extensions through 2013 season.

FOOTBALL

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Detroit DT Ndamukong Suh 2 games after stomping on the arm of Green Bay G Evan Dietrich-Smith during a Nov. 24 game.
CHICAGO BEARS—Signed LB Patrick Trahan from practice squad. Waived/injured LB Brian Iwuh.
CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed DT Cornell Banks to the practice squad. Released LB Bruce Davis from the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Waived LS Ryan Pontbriand. Placed LB Scott Fujita & DE Emmanuel Stephens on injured reserve. Signed LS Christian Yount. Signed LB Benjamin Jacobs & DL Brian Sanford from practice squad. Signed DL Ayanga Okpokowuruk, DB David Sims & LB Brian Smith to practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Fired defensive co-ordinator Larry Coyer. Promoted linebackers coach Mike Murphy to defensive co-ordinator.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Fired coach Jack Del Rio. Named defensive co-ordinator Mel Tucker interim coach.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Released OT Jared Gaither. Signed OT David Mims.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Released CB Phillip Adams.
NY JETS—Signed S Tracy Wilson from practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Fined Pittsburgh F James Neal $2,500 for high-sticking Montreal D P.K. Subban during Saturday's game.
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Reassigned F Brett Sutter to Charlotte (AHL).
DALLAS STARS—Assigned F Francis Wathier to Texas (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Recalled C Mark Cullen from San Antonio (AHL). Reassigned G Brian Foster to Cincinnati (ECHL).
MONTREAL CANADIENS—Called up C Louis Leblanc from Hamilton (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Recalled F Kyle Wilson from Milwaukee (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Sent D Alexander Urbom to Albany (AHL). Waived C Brad Mills.
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Recalled D Cade Fairchild from Peoria (AHL).

5 drive

By comparison

Nissan Leaf
Base price: $40,000
If you want electric, then just go for it. Downside is long charge time.

Mitsubishi i
Base price: $34,500
Short hops only; Prius is more car that does more and costs more, too.

Chevrolet Volt
Base price: $43,000
Gas generator maintains electric motor's function when batteries run low.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Motor

The electrical portion of the powertrain consists of the usual 60-kilowatt (80-horsepower) motor that's energized by a lithium-ion battery pack located beneath the cargo floor. That's the same spot as the standard Prius's nickel-metal-hydrid batteries. The advantage of lithium-ion technology is that it's lighter, more energy efficient and holds a charge for longer periods.

As with all Prius models, power is directed to the front wheels via a continuously variable transmission.

Charging

Beyond operating for a modest distance on electric power, the PHV can be replenished in a relatively quick 2.5-to-three hours using 120-volt household current. Toyota provides a 4.5-metre-long cable that plugs into a connection hidden behind a spring-loaded door on the passenger-side rear quarter panel. Buyers have the option of a 240-volt outlet that cuts charging time to 1.5 hours, however they will have to opt for the "Level 2" home charging station available through Toyota dealers.

Fuel efficiency

As for the all-important question of fuel consumption, Toyota claims the PHV earns the equivalent of 1.75 l/100 km on electric power alone (presumably based on typical power costs) and about 3.7 l/100 km when functioning in hybrid mode, compared with 3.7 city and 4.0 highway for a standard Prius.

▶ It looks like any other Prius because it is like any other Prius, just with more battery power for extended electric-only use.

This Prius has a bit more spark

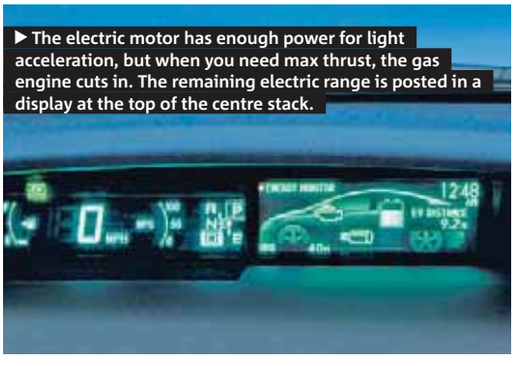
MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

The Prius is the world's most successful gasoline-electric hybrid brand with more than two million copies sold since its 1997 launch. The fuel-frugal Toyota celebrates its 15th anniversary by adding a wagon to the lineup as well as the Plug-in Hybrid, or PHV, which arrives in early 2012.

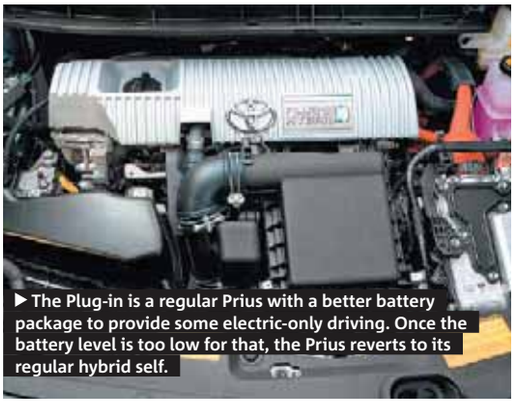
Although similar to a regular Prius, the PHV has been engineered to offer some advantages of a pure electric vehicle as well as the convenience of a typical hybrid. The result should be significantly improved city fuel economy. For short hops, or gridlocked commuter traffic, the PHV can be driven for up to about 25 kilometres at speeds up to 100 km/h in driver-selectable electric mode.

But when a heavier foot on the accelerator is called for and/or the batteries wear down, the 98-horsepower 1.8-litre gas engine instantly kicks in and both power systems provide the necessary thrust, the same as a regular Prius model. The batteries can also be partially replenished from energy captured through braking.

Determining if the PHV is worth the extra cost will ultimately depend on your particular driving habits, such as distance travelled and your ability to baby the throttle around town. For most people, the popular standard Prius will do just fine, while the PHV takes conserving gas and preserving the environment to a whole new level.



▶ The electric motor has enough power for light acceleration, but when you need max thrust, the gas engine cuts in. The remaining electric range is posted in a display at the top of the centre stack.



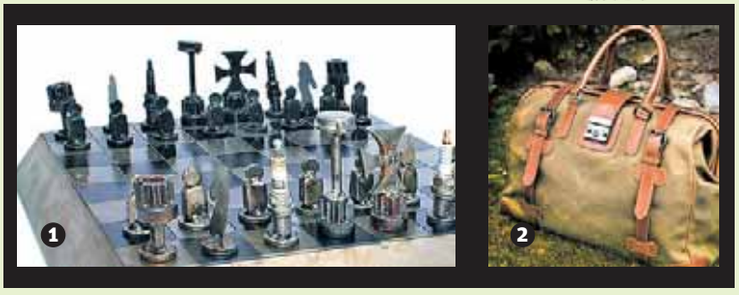
▶ The Plug-in is a regular Prius with a better battery package to provide some electric-only driving. Once the battery level is too low for that, the Prius reverts to its regular hybrid self.

Prius Plug-in

What you should know about the 2012 Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid:

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.8-litre DOHC I4 (98) combined with 80-horsepower electric motor.
- **Transmission:** Continuously variable.
- **Market position:** Plug-in Hybrids appear more advanced than current versions and promise significantly better fuel economy. They also won't create the sort of range anxiety that exists with electric-only models.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 2.0/3.7 (est).

Top Gear



1

Chess players know that the pieces on the board can be made from wood, plastic, marble, etc. Mexican sculptor Armando Ramierz has created what he calls his Rustic Warriors chess set produced from reclaimed used auto parts.

For example, the queen is made from electrical-system components, the bishops from discarded screws plus NKG and AC Delco spark plugs and the castles and pawns from various cogs.

The board resonates with metal-on-metal sounds as the pieces are moved about the alloy surface. No two games are exactly alike and prospective buyers are reminded that the game's industrial-like design includes plenty of patina, such as scratches, smudges and discolouration. Ramirez sells his Rustic Warriors sets for about $200 through a variety of online resellers. findgift.com.

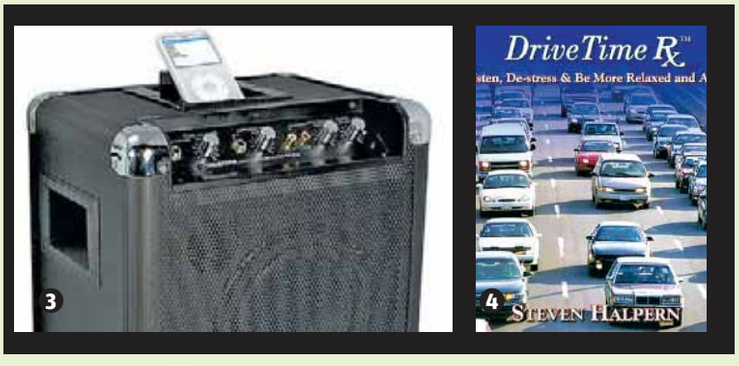
2

For that overnight or weekend car trip, it feels great to drive and arrive looking your best. And that includes packing your gear in something really cool, such as the Waxed Canvas Safari Bag from J.L. Powell.

The company states that the design of this ruggedly elegant piece of luggage was inspired by the house-call doctor bag of the horse-and-buggy era.

As the name implies, the tan-coloured Safari Bag is made using nylon-lined waxed canvas with stitched leather straps and antique-style brass fittings.

A convenient detachable shoulder strap is also included. The bag is available in tan only for $485 from jlpowellusa.com.



3

Getting away from it all doesn't have to mean that you and your friends can't all enjoy your favourite tunes.

The portable Tailgater from ION Audio allows you to dock your personal audio device anywhere you want, or plug in your electric guitar or keyboard for a live performance.

When fully charged, the built-in battery in the Tailgater's 20-watt amplifier can provide up to eight hours of cordless musical pleasure (the built-in battery monitor keeps track of your power usage).

The unit also comes with a power cord (for indoor use) as well as a microphone just in case an impromptu karaoke party breaks out. Pick one up for $150 at ionaudio.com/tailgater.

4

With road rage becoming all the rage (and an outrage) these days, perhaps we'd all learn to chill out while behind the wheel if we loaded Steven Halpern's Drive Time Rx CD into our car's audio system, or downloaded the MP3 version.

Halpern claims that the featured instrumental music is designed to remove at least some of the stress associated with rush-hour driving. He has also included subliminally encoded messages hidden within the tracks that were developed with the help of "professional driver skill enhancement trainers." stevenhalpern.com.

WHEELBASE

MEET DENI

– smart fortwo electric drive Metro correspondent

DENI WON A CHANCE TO TEST DRIVE A SMART FORTWO ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE, ONE OF ONLY 45 IN CANADA!

Noise & comfort: It was extremely quiet at start up - there is no noise at all. While driving, there is a constant, slight "whirr" or whine from the electric motor. The seats were very comfortable for my 5' 10", medium sized frame.

Did you like the size & maneuverability? YES! The Gardiner was closed on my test day, which meant that the downtown core was a traffic jam. The smart allowed me to slip through Queen St. alley ways and make tight turns in the opposite lane – something I can't do in my regular car without a 3-point turn

Favourite features: Ability to park in tight spaces. Maneuverability.

Hot spots visited: Shops at Don Mills, Distillery District, Queen West, Casa Loma, Yorkville and Leslieville. All on 1/3 of the battery.

How can it enhance your lifestyle? Saving me time finding parking.

Check out pictures of Deni's day with the smart fortwo electric drive at facebook.com/smartcanada

smart

metro

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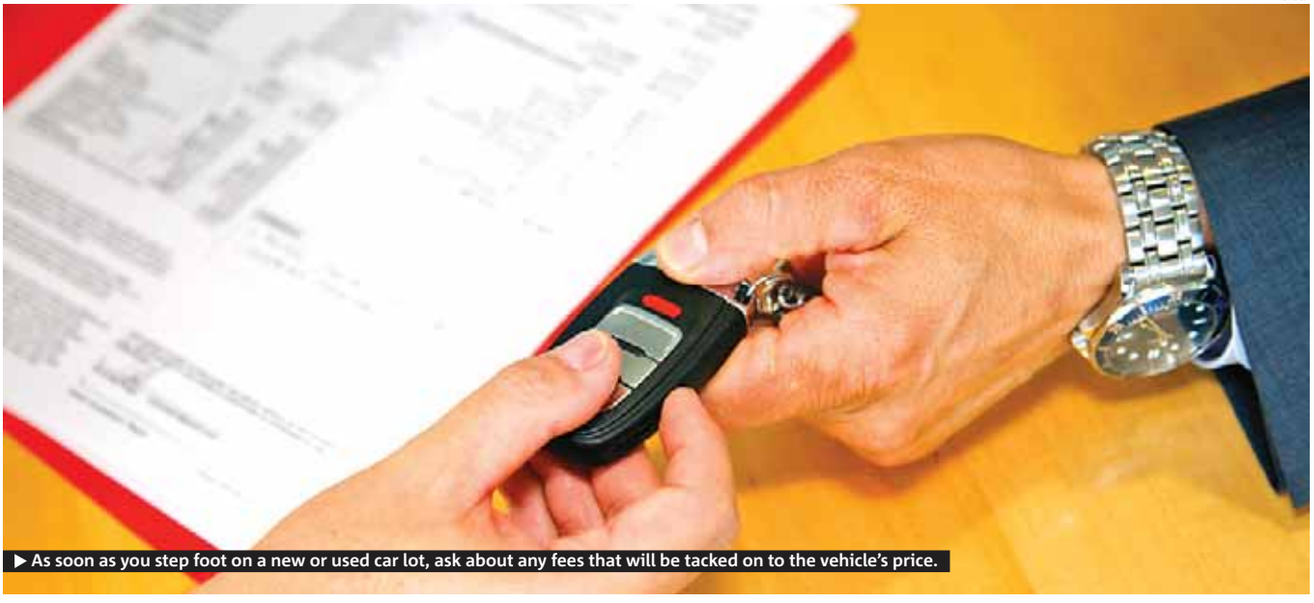

▶ As soon as you step foot on a new or used car lot, ask about any fees that will be tacked on to the vehicle's price.

The thing I most like about getting a bill from a utility company is discovering what new and exciting charges they've managed to come up with since my last bill.

I particularly enjoyed first seeing the one called "customer charge" — so ambiguous, so all encompassing, so delightful.

Some retailers in the car industry are equally creative.

Both new and used car dealerships sometimes tack on an Administration Fee or a Documentation Fee. Either way, this is a charge initiated by each specific dealership (new or used) and can run anywhere from $295 to $595 — and beyond.

Most used car dealerships will charge this fee, but not all new-car dealerships. In fact, most automakers try to police this — with mixed results. This creates the situation where dealerships in the same city, selling the same brands, might have different "admin" fee policies.

One sure thing about admin fees — buyers hate them.

Extra fees are one thing, but what infuriates customers even more are when these fees are only brought up during the paperwork stage.

"When you sit down and see that it has been added to your last negotiated price, you can always step back from the table," says Carl Compton, executive director and registrar of OMVIC.

"If you feel it's not worth it, or not comfortable with it, restart the negotiations."

The Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC) is the entity that enforces Ontario's Motor Vehicle Dealers Act. Each province has its own council and respective "dealers act."

Compton notes that the council is often asked to weigh in on the legitimacy of these admin or documentation fees.

"The only thing we've been able to say is that they are almost a tradition in the industry, for dealers to charge customers for some of the overhead fees they have to deal with. You, as a consumer, should expect that it would probably be tacked on. There is nothing mandatory about it… There is nothing illegal about charging admin fees, but there is nothing from preventing you from negotiating them out as well."

British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec all have legislation that requires dealers and/or dealer groups to disclose any mandatory fees — including admin fees — in their advertised prices.

So the take-away here, is to be aware of them right from the get go.

As soon as you step foot on a new or used car lot, ask about any fees that will be tacked on to the vehicle's price.

Don't find out about them late in the car buying stage, when you're already emotionally attached to the vehicle you want to buy, and/or so emotionally drained by the buying process you'll pay that extra bit, just to make it stop.

† Model shown Chevrolet Cruze LTZ Turbo with GBE, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $27,949. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ††2012 Chevrolet Cruze LS, MSRP with freight, PDI, levies and minimum $1,000 connect and win base award $16,095. ♦♦No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest runs from November 1, 2011 to January 16, 2012. Credit Awards include applicable taxes and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 or 2012 MY GM vehicle delivered from dealer stock, excluding Chevrolet Volt, on or before January 16, 2012. 20 Vehicle Awards consist of either a 2012 GMC Terrain SLE2 FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels, Chrome Appearance Package and Rear Cargo Security Cover or a 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels. Factory order may be required for Vehicle Awards. Approximate retail value of each Vehicle Award is Equinox/Terrain $30,248 MSRP/$29,818 MSRP CDN, including freight. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Correct answer to skill testing question required to claim an award. Some examples of odds are: to receive a $1,000 base award, 1 in 1; to receive a total award of $1,200, 1 in 30; to receive a total award of $10,000, 1 in 10,000; to receive a Vehicle Award, 1 in 20,000 (total awards and vehicle awards include the $1,000 base award). See your GM dealer, visit gm.ca or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE for full contest rules.

This used Audi is fit for the race track

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The 2007 to 2008 Audi RS4 might have been one of the world's foremost sleeper sedans.

Subtle and discreet styling upgrades concealed a track-tuned chassis, high-performance version of the brand's Quattro AWD system and a race-ready engine.

The RS4 Sedan was available on our shores as a 2007 or 2008 model that came with upgraded aerodynamics, brakes and suspension components.

Engine

All RS4 models came just one way: with a 4.2-litre V-8 cranking out 420 horsepower en route to an 8,000 RPM redline, teamed up with AWD and a six-speed manual transmission.

What owners like

RS4's discreet, ultra-performance execution was its major draw. Performance, relative comfort handling, all-season capabilities and a semi-practical four-door body rounded out the owner-stated praise points for the RS4.

What owners dislike

Gripes commonly included limited rear-seat space, a rough ride on some surfaces and, of course, excessive fuel consumption.

Common issues

Be sure the engine on the model you're considering is cold when you first start it up, then check for blue smoke from the tailpipes. Some oil consumption with this engine is considered normal, and may be caused by an easy-to-fix crankcase ventilation system valve.

Poor performance or an inconsistent, "sputtering" feel to the power delivery could indicate a bad ignition coil pack.

Have a mechanic check for fluid leaks and ensure the shock absorbers aren't worn out or "blown".

Verdict

All in all, a well-maintained RS4 should provide an extremely rewarding and relatively worry-free year-round motoring experience for years to come. Just budget for a radar-detector, too.

SUPERIOR JAPANESE CRAFTSMANSHIP MEETS CANADIAN WINTER.

SUBARU
Confidence in Motion

2011 RESIDUAL VALUE AWARD alg Best Mainstream Brand*
ALG AWARD WINNER

TOP SAFETY PICK 2011
The only manufacturer with 2011 IIHS Top Safety Picks for all models.▲

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China's rich have a rich taste for cars

China's superrich want supercars.

That's what the makers of world's most exotic and expensive sports cars are hoping as they gather in Macau recently for the first Asian edition of Monaco's annual Top Marques show that began eight years ago.

The supercar companies are chasing growth in China, which is churning out scores of new millionaires each year and is home to the world's biggest auto market.

271 China's billionaire ranks, boosted by the country's fast-growing economy, swelled to 271 in 2011, 82 more than last year.

Ferraris and Lamborghinis sat alongside rare and beautiful automotive works of art from lesser known marques like Italy's Pagani, West Richland, Wash.-based SSC and Sweden's Koenigsegg. They drew admiring looks from wealthy auto enthusiasts from China and other Asian countries.

Sales staff were hoping to sign deals with some of the 20,000 expected visitors.

One of them was Steve Chen, who built his fortune in China with a motivational speaking business.

He was admiring the Pagani Huayra, a $1.1-million street rocket sheathed in carbon fibre and titanium with gull wing doors and a V-12 engine churning out 700 horsepower.

Chen was thinking of buying a Pagani or a Bugatti Veyron Grand Sport to add to his collection of 15 to 16 high-end cars, which he divides between his bases in Taiwan and Shanghai.

"I go to a lot of auto shows in China. I've loved cars since I was a kid and I have been collecting many different car brands," said Chen, who opened his leather satchel to reveal keys for a Ferrari, a Lamborghini and a Rolls-Royce.

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▶ A Pagani Huayra is pictured at the Macau Supercar Show.

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Test drive. 2012 Acura TL

▶ Metro Toronto's Managing Editor, Tarin Elbert, poses next to a 2012 Acura TL Elite in front of the newspaper's office. The car boasts a 3.7-litre V-6 engine with 305 horsepower. You can bet Tarin made use of most of those ponies.

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Plenty of horsepower to play with

Metro's Tarin Elbert test drove this fully-loaded 2012 Acura TL for a week and said he hasn't had this much fun behind the wheel since he rubbered city roads in his vintage '67 Mustang Fastback. The Acura hugs the road like a lover, surges out of corners like a dead-eyed hawk in full-flight, and the "blind-spot" indicators make weaving in and out of traffic a Sunday drive, he said. METRO

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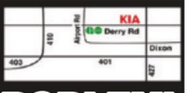

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Heated power side mirrors • Keyless entry • Cruise control
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Lancer SE model shown‡

2011 LANCER DE

DE PRICE FROM $15,998 | $17,748‡ SELLING PRICE

2.0L DOHC 16V MIVEC I4-148HP • 5-speed manual transmission or CVT • Power windows with driver's auto down/up • Power side mirrors • 140-watt CD/MP3 audio system with 4 speakers Tilt steering column • Active Stability Control • Traction control

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Offer(s) available on all new 2011/2012 models purchased through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who purchase a new vehicle by January 3, 2012. Dealers may sell for less, some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice, see dealer for complete details. ‡ 2011 Lancer SE/2011 RVR GT/2011 Outlander XLS models shown have an MSRP of $19,398/$28,498/$34,498 and selling price of $##,###/$##,###/$##,###. (QUE): Taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires are excluded. (Rest of Canada): Includes destination, delivery and fees. Taxes, PPSA and dealer fees of up to $599 are excluded. § S-AWC available on Outlander XLS and Lancer Evolution. † Combined City/Highway ratings for non-hybrid compact SUVs based on Energuide. ◊ 0% purchase financing available through Bank of Montreal for up to 72 months on all new 2011 Outlander models, up to 60 months on all new 2011 RVR models and most new 2011 Lancer models, and up to 84 months on all new 2011 Endeavor models (terms vary by model, see dealer for details). 2011 Lancer DE (CL41A C01) financed at 0% over 60 months. Monthly payments equal $###, with a down payment of $0, a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $##,###. (QUE): Excludes taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires. (Rest of Canada): Excludes up to $1,450 in freight, $250 in PDI, $100 in air tax, up to $30 in EHF, $15 duty on new tires, taxes, PPSA, registration, insurance, licensing, administration, up to $599 in other dealer fees, and any additional government fees. * Best backed claim does not cover Lancer Evolution and Ralliart models. ® MITSUBISHI MOTORS, BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD are trade-marks of Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. and are used under license. ** Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-motors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Not all customers will qualify.

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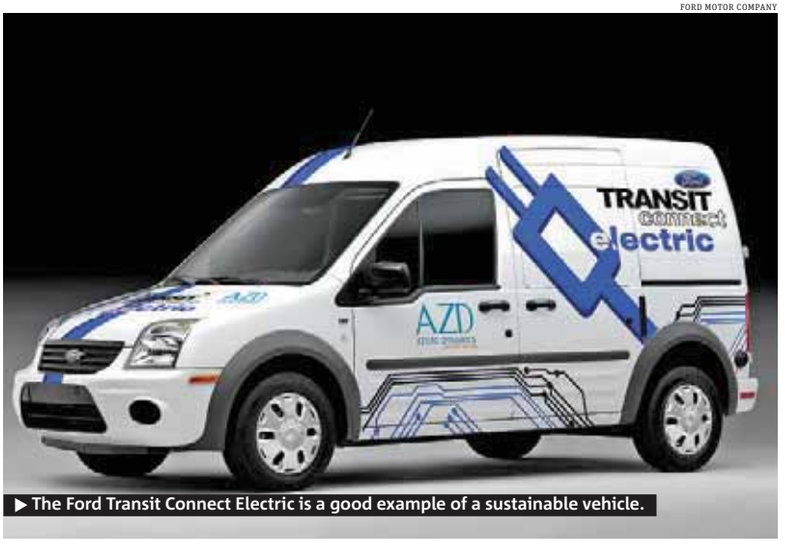
†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2011 Mazda vehicles. 84-month term available on 2011 Mazda3, Mazda 6, CX 7, MX-5, RX-8 and Tribute. Other terms vary by model. Conditions apply – OAC. Dealer may sell for less. Financed pricing for new 2011 Mazda 2 GX(B5XB51AA00) is $15,524.20/2011 Mazda 3 GX(D4XS51AB00) is $19,919.20/2011 Mazda CX 7 GX-FWD(PVXY81AA00) is $28,483.20 – financed at 0.9% for over 84 months for the 2011 Mazda 2 GX and 0% over 84 months for 2011 Mazda 3/Mazda CX 7 equaling bi-weekly payments $88/$109/$156 with $0 down payment, the cost of borrowing is $533.34/$0 for the 2011 Mazda 2 GX/2011 Mazda 3/Mazda CX 7, the total finance obligation is $16,037.1/$19,919.20/ $28,483.20 for the 2011 Mazda 2 GX/Mazda 3 GX /Mazda CX 7– OAC. Price includes freight, P.D.I and fees. PPSA, License, insurance, taxes are extra. Down payment maybe required. Cash Rebate of up to $10,000 is available on 2011 Mazda RX 8, $6000 on the 2011 Mazda 6 V6, $5000 on the 2011 Mazda 6 I4, MX-5, Tribute, $4000 on the 2011 CX 9, Mazda Speed 3, $3500 on the CX 7, Mazda 3 GT, Mazda 3 Sport GT, $3000 on the 2011 Mazda 3 GX/GS, Mazda 3 Sport GX/GS, Mazda 2 GS & Mazda 2 Yozora edition, $2000 on the 2011 Mazda 2 GX with NO air-conditioning, and $1500 on the Mazda 2 GX. The Cash offers cannot be combined with special lease or purchase finance offers. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid until November 30, 2011 or while supplies last. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or Yorkdale Dufferin Mazda for complete details.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY



▶ The Ford Transit Connect Electric is a good example of a sustainable vehicle.

Carmakers' new concern is auto sustainability

Recycling process gaining attention from automakers

DRIVING FORCE

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It's no longer enough for automakers to simply build cars that are stylish or have all the latest options. Sustainability is now a driving force, as auto companies tackle such issues as fuel efficiency, alternative powertrains and how to recycle vehicles and components at the end of their lives.

"It's about providing transportation to future generations without having it negatively impacting the environment," says John Viera, director of sustainability for Ford Motor Company. He adds that it's also about educating consumers on the new choices they face.

"We're talking about different fuels, different batteries, and consumers are overwhelmed by the amount of information they need to know."

Cost is a major issue, whether it's the batteries in electric vehicles or extra engine components on vehicles that burn compressed natural gas. There also needs to be infrastructure to supply these fuels. This was always left to gas companies in the past, which refined the fuel and transported it to the stations; for possibly the first time, automakers are now involved in the process.

Batteries

- Making better electric cars is not really an issue; they've been around since the late 1800s. It's the battery technology that hasn't kept up. Batteries with long range are still very heavy and expensive.
- Like other automakers, Ford is partnering with universities and other companies to advance the technology for battery-electric vehicles.

"The good news is that everyone has electricity at their house or work, so we've decided to work on how we provide charging equipment that is easily installable at home or at work," Viera says.

"We don't try to set up utility stations like gas companies putting in gas pumps, but we are working directly in getting people involved in home charging. These vehicles are parked there for long periods and that's where our focus has been. We think the majority of charging will happen at home or work, not at a public station."

The batteries themselves present issues. Those that use lithium-ion are now becoming the electric vehicle standard. The easiest lithium to mine is in Bolivia, Chile and China, where it's the equivalent of accessible Saudi Arabian oil; deposits in North America are more like the tar sands, harder and costlier to extract. Recycling batteries for their lithium isn't cost-effective yet, and Viera says that automakers will have to work on this.

"We're not there yet, but we need to get together as an industry to address that issue," he says.

"We have to work together. The vehicle drives for 15 years, but if it gets in a crash now, what's the protocol for removing the batteries, where are they transported, where do they go? This is not a competitive advantage; this is something we're all going to need.

"We're working with other automakers on the whole recycling process for this."

Selling a dream

Car salesmen are rewriting life in small-town India

Out on the edge of Barabanki, a few steps from the railroad tracks and across the street from an emerald-green field that stinks of sewage, Sanjeev Saxena sits inside a signpost of a new Indian era. Occasionally, he glances up from his desk to see if anyone is coming through the door.

He's waiting to sell you a dream.

It's a dream about small-town prestige, and air conditioning in the brutal north Indian summer. It's a dream they never thought they'd see in India's millions of villages, and of people who once couldn't imagine clawing their way into the middle class.

It's a dream that comes in 15 models and 35 colours. Financing is easily available.

"I remember when cars were for rich people," said Dharmendra Srivastava, 32, one of Saxena's seven salesmen at the brightly lit dealership with the unwieldy name Bright4Wheel.

"Today, everyone in India wants to have a car: the city people, farmers, everyone."

Little is changing modern India more than the spread of cars, a four-wheeled reflection of its economic transformation and a window into the aspirations of the new Indian middle class.

The automotive metamorphosis has spread from the upper-class enclaves of India's biggest cities to its countless Barabankis: once-quiet towns now spilling over with concrete buildings, crowded streets and clattering vehicles.

Farmers and school-teachers now buy cars. The Barabanki shopkeeper selling fluorescent tubes for 150 rupees ($3 US) apiece has one. The farmer-businessman with the one-room tire store has two.

Saxena, with his smoker's growl and greying comb-over, often tells his team that what they do is about sales technique: about confidence, about treating customers right, about knowing the latest offers.

"You need to learn how to convince people to buy. If you can't do that, you need to ask why," he told them during a recent sales meeting, his voice somewhere between an angry father's and an encouraging teacher's.

It was the first day of a string of autumn Hindu festivals marking the year's biggest shopping season, and an hour before the arrival of the day's first customers. It was three days before the Maruti-Suzuki dealership's monthly sales deadline.

But behind the technique is something else.

Maruti sells its cars with ads showing an idealized India that barely exists, even in the country's wealthiest enclaves: sprawling houses with white picket fences, highways with no traffic, friendly towns without a hint of litter. Everywhere, there are joyful Indians driving Marutis.

That's the Indian dream they're selling.

The fantasy began taking shape in 1991, when the government was facing crushing debt payments and dangerously low foreign exchange reserves. Desperate to save itself, India abandoned socialism and embraced globalization to become one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Per capita income 20 years ago was $350 US, one-quarter of what it is today. The literacy rate was 42 per cent.

Cars were an unimaginable extravagance.

Salesmen in the country, such as the ones at Bright4Wheel, have helped transform India.

The cars they have sold have helped link thousands of long-isolated villages to cities and towns. Their cars have given people better access to jobs, schools and medical care.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS BY SAURABH DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A Maruti showroom in Barabanki, India, is decorated during the festival of Diwali to attract customers. Bottom left, a customer tries out a car as his family waits eagerly, while at right, a salesman makes calculations to offer a final price of a car.

2.5M

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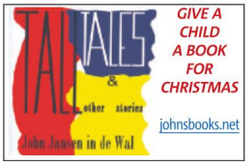

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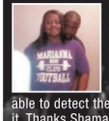

She was very cold with me and an exboyfriend of her was working with me. He had casted a spell and the shaman was able to detect the problem and resolve it. Thanks Shaman.
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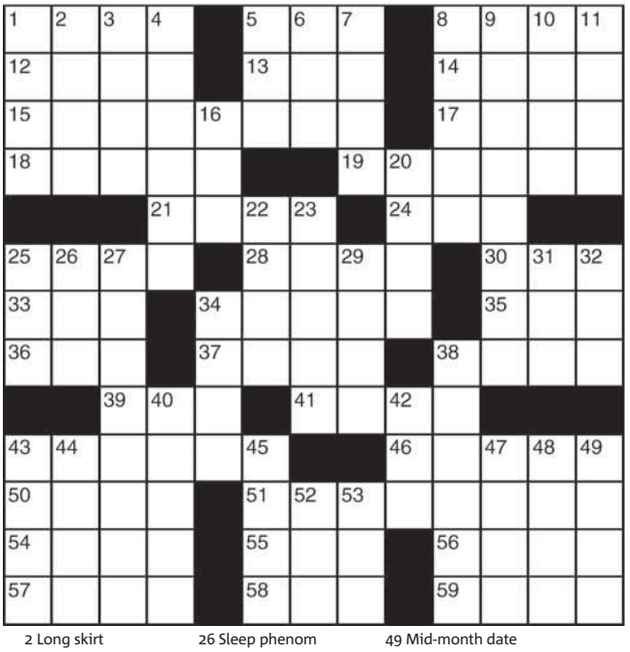

Across

1 Mosque bigwig
5 Scale member
8 Equipment
12 Hardy cabbage
13 Commotion
14 World's fair
15 Went boom
17 Newspaper page
18 Supermarket section
19 Undergo without yielding
21 Exam format
24 Still, in verse
25 Make tea
28 Took to the skies
30 Festive
33 Actor Harrison
34 Animal stomachs
35 Away from WSW
36 Pump up the volume
37 Base runner's goal
38 Tosses in
39 Historic period
41 Venomous vipers
43 What to call an English nobleman
46 Puppeteer Lewis
50 Norway's capital
51 Atoned for
54 Coaster
55 Central
56 Fashion
57 Danson and Nugent
58 Eggs
59 Heroic verse

Down

1 Furniture store chain
2 Long skirt
3 Swiss peaks
4 Laid-back
5 Despondent
6 Rhyming tribute
7 Source of wealth
8 Crystal-lined rock
9 Obliterated
10 Mimic
11 Took the bus
16 "— the ramparts ..."
20 Information
22 Frizzy coiffure
23 Camel's cousin
25 Bikini half
26 Sleep phenom
27 Kicked out of school
29 Rams fans?
31 Moreover
32 "Certainly"
34 Burn somewhat
38 Fats Domino's "Ain't That —"
40 Crucifixes
42 Omega preceder
43 Lion's share
44 Capri, for one
45 Showroom sample
47 On
48 Start over
49 Mid-month date
52 Louis —
53 BlackBerry, for ex.

▶ Yesterday's answer

E	G	A	D		S	I	C		N	A	P	E
T	O	R	I		N	I	H		E	L	U	L
C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L		P	O	R	K
			D	I	P		O	C	H	E	R	S
T	R	A	I	T		T	R	E	E			
H	A	N	K		T	A	I	L	W	I	N	D
A	N	O		B	R	U	N	T		R	O	E
W	I	N	D	P	I	P	E		N	I	N	E
			R	O	U	E		A	E	S	O	P
E	S	T	E	E	M		O	W	E			
L	I	R	A		P	I	P	E	D	O	W	N
S	L	I	M		H	O	E		L	U	A	U
E	L	M	S		S	U	N		E	R	S	T

Sudoku

	7		3			5	8	
6				8		1		2
8				7				
	1	3			8		9	
				1				
	8		5			4	1	
				5				4
2		7		3				1
	6	8			9		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	8	2	5	4	6	3	9	7
6	3	9	8	7	1	5	4	2
4	7	5	2	9	3	1	8	6
9	2	3	1	5	8	7	6	4
5	6	7	3	2	4	8	1	9
8	4	1	9	6	7	2	5	3
3	9	6	7	1	5	4	2	8
7	5	4	6	8	2	9	3	1
2	1	8	4	3	9	6	7	5

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

To BH,
Hi Honey, 24 days and counting before you are here with me. I am so looking forward to seeing you, holding you and kissing you. All I want for Christmas is you.....Love you more xxxxxxx
MPPP

Propellor
We only every see each other briefly, maybe once a week. But your sweet smile sustains me until the next time. I wonder if you're single? I hope so, as I'm determined to get to know the person behind that beautiful face.
GROWLER

Hey Lady
the longest of nights, just thinking of your soft skin, and your fiery red hair.
MISTER

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be focusing on mundane matters such as how to pay the bills and make ends meet today.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't let others infect you with their doom and gloom attitude. You know that misery loves company.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you don't want to get in the bad books of people you live and work with, don't second guess them.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If something that usually goes right for you starts going wrong today, it's a sign you need to think again.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 With mind planet Mercury currently moving retrograde, you must make sure you've got your facts straight.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Having second thoughts about something in which you're involved? It would be a mistake to make changes.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 What people say and what they mean will be two very different things today. It pays to be suspicious.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may be at a loss to explain why certain things are happening, but don't make too big a deal of it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The more someone complains about what you are doing, the more you will do it.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you're the kind of Capricorn who learns from your mistakes, you will learn a lot over the next 24 hours.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You will have a hard time convincing people today. Live and let live.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The more people make an issue of something that doesn't bother you, the more necessary it is to distance yourself. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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